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RESOURCES REPORT

December, 1983

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Forest Management in Ontario

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Forestry in Ontario is very big business. It's one of our largest employers and biggest industries in terms of overall economic importance. The forest industry provides direct employment for 80,000 people in Ontario, and indirect employment for as many as 80,000 others.

Over the years, some people -- including professional foresters, naturalists, politicians and journalists -- have expressed concern that not enough is being done to protect the future of Ontario's forest industry.

There is always a need for a concerned public. But the government's forestry specialists know the Ontario situation is manageable. In fact, over the longer term, the picture is quite positive.

The mandate of the Ministry of Natural Resources makes it responsible for all forests on Crown land in Ontario -- which has some 425,000 square kilometres of productive forest lands -- so the ministry is in effect the landlord for almost all the province's forest companies. And, as Ontario's forest landlord, the ministry must ensure that publicly-owned forests are properly used, protected and renewed.

To live up to its mandate, the ministry has led Ontario into one of the most advanced and effective forest management programs in Canada. This management program has many important elements, some of which are described in the following paragraphs.

First in importance are the ministry's Forest Management Agreements -- undoubtedly the most important development in forestry in Ontario in recent years. Each agreement requires a forest company, working in co-operation with the ministry, to treat, regenerate and tend areas where cutting operations have occurred. The first such agreement was signed in 1980. By the end of 1983, there were 17 FMAs in place covering 37 per cent of the total area of the province under licence to the forest industry.

By 1985, the ministry will have 30 Forest Management Agreements, which will cover the majority of the province's forest area under licence to the industry. Ontario's commitment to the program is evidenced by the fact that spending on it has grown more than 10-fold in just three years -- from \$3-million in 1980-81 to approximately \$32-million in 1983-84.

This concern about the long-term management of Ontario's resources is also reflected in the District Land Use Guidelines which the ministry published in June, 1983. These documents -- covering 45 districts in all -- were the product of extensive study and hundreds of public meetings. They establish the province's preferences for current and future land use activities. The guidelines represent a landmark in planning, and provide for the multiple use of Ontario's resources -- protecting the interests of all users, from forestry and mining, to hikers and native peoples.

Among other things, the guidelines contain provisions for more than 150 candidate provincial parks. They also establish some completely new land use designations, such as Modified Management Areas -- areas that require special management measures -- with provision for buffers and lake reserves to protect other important resource values in areas where forest harvesting is taking place.

In effect, the guidelines establish the provincial land base required for forestry activities and keep it in harmony with other uses. The documents are a first for Canada and absolutely fundamental to protecting our forestry future.

When you talk about the future of forestry, of course, you have to talk about forest renewal. In Ontario, this renewal takes many forms. For example, some forests can be harvested so that natural regeneration will follow cutting. Frequently, this method requires special efforts to provide suitable conditions for natural seeding.

More intensive methods of regeneration may be required on more productive lands. This may mean careful site preparation, followed by planting or seeding. Ontario spent about \$65-million on reforestation work in 1983 -- \$14-million on site preparation and \$11-million on planting and seeding alone.

As a footnote, it's worthwhile to mention that the Ministry of Natural Resources' overall forest resources budget has tripled during the past five years -- from \$43-million in 1977-78, to \$122-million in 1982-83. The same period has also witnessed a remarkable increase in tree production, as well as the establishment of 20 private nurseries throughout Northern Ontario to produce millions of tree seedlings.

But the ministry is not just providing for the forest of the future, it is also protecting the one we already have. For example, Ontario leads the world in the use of the most modern methods and equipment available for protecting producing forests against fire and disease.

Forest fire management equipment currently being used includes a computerized lightning detection and mapping system -- for almost-instant fire detection -- and a computer-assisted Decision Support System, as well as a sizeable fleet of helicopters, fire-detection aircraft, and light and heavy water bombers.

The ministry added two Canadair CL-215 amphibious water bombers to its forest fire fighting force in 1983, and entered into an agreement with the federal government to acquire an additional seven CL-215s -- with delivery scheduled to begin in 1985.

As well, a permanent complement of 1,000 professional firefighting staff is on duty around the clock at peak periods during the April-October forest fire season to protect our valuable forest stands.

Ontario has also established co-operative programs with the forest industry to train their staffs to help fight forest fires. Over the years, the ministry's fire management professionals have gained international recognition.

To some people, the immediate after effects of logging are not aesthetically pleasing. But professional foresters know that the usual consequence of not harvesting mature timber in the boreal forest is the destruction of the timber by fire and insects. As a result, one of the most important Ontario forest management initiatives is the network of resource access roads.

Some 16,000 kilometres of these roads -- more than our provincial highways system -- have been developed by the ministry and the forest companies of Ontario to provide access to mature and overmature timber -- trees that would otherwise die from fire, insects or disease. The government's access roads policy provides for full public consultation on the general location of the roads, and the routing is designed to minimize their impact on tourist establishments.

In fact, public involvement in forestry has grown immeasurably over the last few years. The government knows that the use of our forests is important to everyone in Ontario -- important for business and important for enjoyment, recreation and tourism. The ministry therefore provides opportunities for public consultation and involvement in its forest management planning process. Each new Forest Management Agreement, for example, is open for public comment before it is finalized.

Another way to protect our existing forest resources is to reduce the amount of wasted wood. The Ministry of Natural Resources has taken a number of steps to improve the forest industry's wood utilization rate within practical and economic limits.

Primarily, these efforts encourage a more complete and efficient harvesting of the forest, as well as more efficient conversion of logs into saleable products. Also encouraged are the greater use of residues such as sawdust and bark for fuel, and expansion of the province's sawlog industry, through third-party agreements.

Ontario was one of the first provinces to provide incentives -- in co-operation with the federal government -- to the forest industry to modernize and to make mills more efficient and environmentally sound.

Through Forintek -- a non-profit corporation -- the ministry is helping to fund research on a manufacturing process to produce large boards from small strips of wood. Ideally, the research will lead to the development of a continuous high-speed process for producing large, laminated, construction-grade beams. Making better uses of small trees and short logs is just one of the ways in which Ontario's sawmill operations can become more competitive.

There is, of course, a good deal more research currently being done. The ministry's main research efforts emphasize tree improvement -- through selecting superior trees and using vegetative cuttings for genetic improvements. A good example is the development of the fast-growing hybrid poplar -- a tree species that exhibits phenomenally rapid growth, and that can be bred for desirable characteristics such as resistance to disease, correct shape and thickness. The ministry is now researching methods to improve the growth of other species -- notably spruce and jack pine.

The ministry is also involved in a number of federal-provincial co-operative programs. For example, under a five-year Forest Management Subsidiary Agreement signed in 1978, the Ontario and federal governments have equally funded a total of \$71.5-million for forest access, silviculture, seedling production and forest land surveys and assessment. And negotiations leading to a new, five-year forestry agreement are currently under way.

In addition to the ministry's own nurseries, which produce some 82 million containerized and bare root seedlings yearly, the ministry has signed 20 contracts with private nurseries to help supply the big demand for tree seedlings -- a demand which exists because of the regeneration efforts being made under Forest Management Agreements.

Currently these private growers are producing millions of seedlings for planting. The Ontario Cabinet's Board of Industrial Leadership and Development (BILD) has provided some of the necessary capital assistance to establish adequate facilities, and the resulting boom in seedling production is helping the ministry to meet its forest regeneration targets.

But these forest management programs alone cannot ensure a guaranteed, healthy future for our forests. W. T. Foster, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources -- and a professional forester for more than 30 years -- told the Canadian Institute of Forestry in Sault Ste. Marie in October, 1983: "There is a serious gap in forestry in Ontario." This gap concerns the important linkage between the "old forest" and the "new forest".

Much of Ontario's existing forest is old. It has been growing here for hundreds and thousands of years -- managed only by nature: natural seeding, natural death, fires and decay.

That natural process was interrupted when Ontario began to be settled, more than 200 years ago. Forestry was an important part of Ontario from the beginning, and it is easy to understand how it seemed to the early settlers that the forests were limitless.

Our early foresters felt that natural regeneration alone would restore the forests quickly enough. And it still seemed that way to Ontario's lumber and pulp and paper companies early in this century. Reforestation -- if it was considered at all -- was seen as unnecessary, as expensive and largely irrelevant.

Today, however, reforestation is an important and vital part of all good forest management. The new forest will be the result of those efforts -- the new forest that is being planted in Ontario today, and that has been planted over the last couple of decades.

But the new forest will not produce a stick of timber until well into the next century, since it takes between 40 and 80 years for a forest to mature. If there is a problem in the Ontario forest industry, it is how to bridge the generation gap that exists between the old and the new forests.

For example, it is currently quite common to truck wood more than 300 kilometres to the mill: this is necessary in order to utilize the old forest and thereby maintain the industry until the new forest is ready. It is the old forest that must be utilized effectively by the industry if the gap between old and new is to be bridged.

Ontario's ability to bridge the forest gap depends upon continued wise and effective management, upon improving our wood utilization rate, upon building more access roads to our overmature forests, upon protecting our forests from fire and insects and upon our willingness to work together to transcend the gap -- and these are the forest management objectives of the Ministry of Natural Resources.



RESOURCES REPORT

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NEW WATER ATLAS
WILL INFORM ONTARIANS
ABOUT THEIR WATER RESOURCES

Ever wonder how many lakes there are in Ontario? Or how much of the province is covered with water? Or how much water it takes to make a tonne of steel?

Well, the answers to these and many other questions about Ontario's water resources can be found in a new 72-page book called Water Quantity Resources of Ontario, released by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

This is the first comprehensive look at the quantity of Ontario's water resources. With numerous color maps and diagrams, it examines the supply of surface and ground water in the province, as well as the many uses of water across Ontario.

"This document is designed to increase Ontario residents' understanding of the importance of our water resources," Ontario Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said. "This is important at this time, with the anticipated increases in demand for water both within the province and particularly in the Great Lakes basin.

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"Water Quantity Resources of Ontario" will also be a useful planning document for resource-based industries, municipalities, engineers and planners. Without question, it will assist all of us in making the decisions that will ensure the wise use of our water resources for years to come," he said.

By the way, Ontario has about 228,000 lakes. About 470,000 square kilometres -- or about 17 per cent of Ontario -- is water. And it takes 250,000 litres of water to make one tonne of steel.

Water Quantity Resources of Ontario costs \$24.95 and is available from the Ontario government book store at 880 Bay Street, Toronto. Telephone: (416) 965-2054. You can also get a copy by sending a cheque or money order, payable to the Treasurer of Ontario, for \$24.95 to:

Publications Centre
880 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1N8.

Allow about two weeks for delivery.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rob Milligan
Lands and Waters
TORONTO (416) 965-6281



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June 1984

NEW WILDERNESS SKILLS PROGRAM IS FIRST FOR FRONTENAC

by Bob Defries

Ministry of Natural Resources

If you're turned on by wilderness, but not yet quite ready to step into the unknown -- head first for Frontenac Provincial Park.

One of the newest in Ontario's provincial park chain, Frontenac -- a half-hour drive north of Kingston -- is the first to offer a comprehensive wilderness skills training program. In fact, many eager back-country buffs left their cars behind and walked into the park while the main road was still under construction.

Once you've mastered some basic wilderness skills at Frontenac, you should feel confident enough to launch out on your own. But before heading for the big time -- full-fledged wilderness provincial parks like Quetico in northwestern Ontario or Killarney on northern Georgian Bay -- it might be wise to take your wilderness in easy stages.

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"While short courses are held in other parks, this type of ongoing program is unique. It will provide the skills needed to enjoy the out-of-doors comfortably and safely," said Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope.

How about starting with Bon Echo Provincial Park? It's reasonably close to Frontenac, and offers all the wilderness advantages. If canoeing's your choice, you can choose either short or long routes. The Kishkebus route is an easy day's outing. By looping around Mazinaw Lake, Semicircle Lake and Kishkebus Lake, you'll see Indian rock paintings, an osprey's nest and an impressive stand of huge maples and birches.

The Mississippi canoe route follows lakes and rivers southeast of the park and can take a week.

But whether you choose a long or short canoe route, start at Frontenac where experts will show you how to plan your wilderness trip -- whether it's a one-day hike or a one-week canoeing adventure.

You can also hone your fishing skills, or learn to read maps and compasses, or prepare for something really physical, like rock climbing, by knowing how to choose the equipment that's right for you. To ensure your well-being in the wilds you can take one of a variety of first-aid and boating safety courses.

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Now if you're ready for rock climbing, you can head for Halfway Lake Provincial Park on Highway 144, 90 kilometres north of Sudbury. While it's not Mount Everest, you'll enjoy climbing the steep rock faces in the park. The climb's worth the spectacular view.

If you prefer wilderness at ground level, there are plenty of good hiking trails both for the novice and serious backpacker at Halfway Lake Provincial Park. There are also canoeing opportunities on the many lakes in the park's interior.

By now you've had such an active summer, you may think it's too late to return to Frontenac. But wilderness skills don't end with the seasons! Starting with a good blanket of snow, you can sign up for short courses on cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, winter camping or ice fishing.

Chuck Matheson, parks and recreation supervisor for the ministry's Napanee District, said more people are taking advantage of the skills program now that the main road is open. Most of the courses cost only \$2.50 for the day-use fee, while there is a nominal fee for equipment in some.

Matheson emphasized that the key to the program is flexibility. It will grow and change in response to user demands.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Chuck Matheson
Napanee District
NAPANEE (613) 354-2173

Sheila MacFeeters
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245



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ONTARIO WILDLIFE SHORTS

1984 Deer Licences

Licences for the 1984 Ontario deer hunt are now available. All deer hunters in Ontario need a licence to harvest one antlered deer. Ontario residents may hunt antlerless deer if their applications are selected in a computerized, random draw.

Application forms for the antlerless deer hunt are attached to the resident's and farmer's deer licences. To be eligible for the draw, applications must be received by the Wildlife Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 99 Wellesley Street West, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1W3 by 5 p.m., July 31, 1984.

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Hunters must indicate on their application their first and -- if they wish -- their second choice of the Wildlife Management Units in which they wish to hunt. Each licence issuer will have a map indicating the 1984 deer seasons, and a chart showing a summary of the 1983 tag draw and the number of hunters applying to each WMU. This helps hunters determine which WMUs are the most heavily hunted.

Successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Peregrine Falcons Return

Two peregrine falcons that returned to Toronto this spring may have seen the advantages of higher learning.

They've come back to Upper Canada College -- a private boys' school.

The birds are assumed to be two out of three released at UCC in 1983 by the Ministry of Natural Resources, in its ongoing program to re-establish this endangered species in Ontario. They seem to have "touched base" at UCC, although they are not staying in the immediate vicinity of the school.

The province's peregrine falcon population was almost depleted when the insecticide DDT contaminated their food supply, causing thin-shelled eggs. About 80 per cent of young peregrines die in their first year from a variety of causes.

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After introducing peregrines to cliff-side nesting sites in Algonquin Provincial Park for five years, ministry biologists began releasing the birds atop buildings in downtown Toronto. In 1981 and 1982 -- the first two years of the Toronto project -- 10 birds were released from the Whitney Block, at Queen's Park.

In addition to this year's two returned peregrines at UCC, a single male, Whitney, returned to Queen's Park in 1982 and 1983 -- indicating that the overall success of the Toronto release project has been very good.

Turkeys Mating

At least several of the wild turkeys re-introduced to Ontario in March have decided to settle down and raise families.

In Northumberland County, members of the Quinte Wild Turkey Association and local Ministry of Natural Resources staff are keeping their eye on one nest containing a dozen eggs, and are on the lookout for more. Signals from radio-collars indicate other birds may also be nesting.

In Simcoe County, ministry staff believe signals from radio-equipped collars on their group of birds indicate that two, perhaps three, hens are nesting.

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Wild turkeys -- one of the most elusive wild birds -- once flourished in southern Ontario but died out about the turn of the century. In co-operation with several local groups, ministry staff obtained 57 wild turkey hens and 16 toms from Missouri and Michigan and released them in the wild. Eleven out of the 28 birds from Missouri have been accounted for and more than 40 of the 47 birds from Michigan survived the re-introduction into new surroundings during bitter March weather. The southern birds did not survive as well having suffered a hard winter with a scarcity of food in Missouri.

Tune in a bear

A number of polar bears in Ontario's north will be wearing radio-transmitter collars later this year, put there by biologists studying bear movements.

Last fall, polar bear counts from aircraft turned up 204 animals -- 159 in Ontario and 45 in Manitoba, the highest count in 20 years. The ministry estimates that Ontario has approximately 400 polar bears.

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New wildlife poster

A new poster picturing and describing the 14 animals and plants listed under Ontario's Endangered Species Act of 1971 is now available from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The new poster includes updated information and one more species not covered in a previous publication -- the small whorled pogonia. The posters are available free of charge from any district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, or the Public Service Centre, Room 1640, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 1W3.

New book on fur

Fur, The Trade That Put Upper Canada On The Map is a new 160-page softcover book that no trapper, outdoorsman or provincial history buff should pass up in this bicentennial year.

The book, produced by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and published and distributed by the Ontario Trappers Association, covers the fur trade from 1611 to the present. It tells of life on the trap lines, and the men and women who made fur a major Ontario industry.

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And it was written by someone who is an authority -- Ralph Bice, hunting guide, outdoorsman, trapper, writer -- and a past president of the OTA. The book is also well-illustrated with 60 pages of photographs.

Fur, The Trade That Put Upper Canada On The Map costs \$9.95 and is available at all district offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources and, in Toronto, at the Ontario Government Bookstore and the ministry's public service centre.

Falcon protection

A regulation made under Ontario's Endangered Species Act has been amended to cover all subspecies of peregrine falcons.

Until now, only the eastern peregrine has been protected under the act. However, recently, one other subspecies -- the Arctic peregrine -- has been seen in Ontario.

An estimated 17 to 20 peregrine subspecies exist worldwide; and three are found in Canada.

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For several years now, several North American jurisdictions -- including Ontario -- have been attempting with success to re-introduce peregrine falcons to areas where they once flourished. The regulation will cover birds that have been released and are cross-breeding.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doreen Pearson
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-4251

or

Local ministry district offices

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COMMUNITY CLIPS the CFIP newsletter

A note from the Director, Fisheries Branch...

I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Natural Resources' Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) -- now in its third year -- has proven to be a success.

Since the program was introduced in 1982 by Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope, CFIP has assisted 58 volunteer community groups to improve local fisheries -- 22 the first year and 36 the following.

This year we're off to an even better start. By May -- just one month into the ministry's 1984/85 fiscal year -- there were already 50 new projects supported by CFIP.

The program has been such a success we thought the CFIP participants might like to know what's happening in other projects. So we're issuing "COMMUNITY CLIPS" -- a newsletter just for CFIP volunteers. It will help us provide information about the program, as well as helping those of you involved in the program to exchange information.

I hope this is the first of many issues of "COMMUNITY CLIPS". But like CFIP itself -- this depends on you. So write to us. Tell us about your club's successes, the people on your team, new ideas or new "technology" you've pioneered.

If you think it's of interest -- tell us about it! Write to me at:

Fisheries Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
Room 2353
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario

I hope to eventually hear from each participating group. In the meantime, good luck with your projects.

Art Holder

WHO MAKES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Fishing and hunting clubs sponsored just over half of all CFIP projects undertaken this year. Tourist outfitters sponsored another 18 per cent. There are also several cottage associations and school groups participating, and this year we had our first boy scout troop offer its services.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

As many of you know, this year the ministry has set aside separate CFIP funding for walleye (yellow pickerel) related projects. To date, 24 of these projects have been approved -- most involving walleye egg incubation. Several others aim at providing suitable habitat for the species, and two are attempting to establish naturally-reproducing walleye populations by transferring mature adults.

Thirty projects other than walleye have been approved so far for 1984. Ten are aimed at improving fish habitat, and several more involve the construction and maintenance of small streamside upwelling incubation boxes. Rainbow trout are the most common species being reared.

We'd like to list all the projects for this year. However, that's just not possible in this newsletter. What we will do is highlight three very different projects.

Timmins Golden Nuggets Conservation Club Aurora Trout Introduction

The Golden Nuggets are attempting an unusual but welcome species introduction. The very rare aurora trout -- a non-spotted sub-species of the common brook trout -- will be released into a small body of water called Miller's Pit, near Timmins. Right now Miller's Pit has a population of brook trout. These will be removed and transferred to an adjacent creek. Rehabilitation work on Miller's Pit will then begin for introduction of the auroras next spring.

Club Contact:

Cliff Raymond
30 Laval Place
Timmins, Ontario
Tel: (705) 264-1744

MNR Contact:

Tom Corbett
896 Riverside Drive
Timmins, Ont. P4N 3W2
Tel: (705) 267-7951

Loring Restoule Vacationland Tourist Association
Walleye Rearing

This project started last year with holding ponds dug out and readied for the introduction of walleye fry this spring. There are now seven rearing ponds on the site. Over one million eggs were collected and about 500,000 eggs hatched. The ponds were seeded with soymeal to fertilize and enhance the development of zoo-plankton on which tiny walleye feed. By July, it is hoped thousands of walleye fingerlings will be released into area lakes.

Club Contact:

Hartley Moore
Loring, Ontario
Tel: (705) 757-2004

MNR Contact:

Lloyd Thurston
4 Miller Street
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Tel: (705) 746-4201

Waterloo Rod and Gun Association
Stream Rehabilitation

Washington Creek, in the Cambridge area, was historically a good brook trout-producing stream. The creek still has strong spring sources and relatively clean gravel substrate, but the stream banks are unstable and stream cover is sparse. The club hopes to use several rehabilitation techniques to correct the situation and restore the brook trout fishery.

Club Contact

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INTRODUCING JERRY SMITKA -- CFIP'S COMMUNITY ADVISOR

CFIP now has a full-time community advisor. Jerry Smitka, a familiar face to many of you, will be available to help community groups across the province. A biology graduate from the University of Toronto, Jerry has worked for the ministry for more than 10 years. He compiled the comprehensive stream rehabilitation manual for coldwater fish, and is currently overseeing the writing of a companion volume on warmwater species.

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CFIP REHABILITATION MANUAL NOW READY

This 300-page field manual is full of valuable information on stream rehabilitation and egg incubation methods for enhancing trout populations. One copy is available free of charge for every club undertaking a CFIP project. The cost for additional issues is \$16. If you can use one of these manuals please contact the nearest MNR district office or write to the Fisheries Branch in Toronto.

RESOURCES REPORT

July 1984

WALLEYE CULTURE COMES TO POINTE AU BARIL

by Steve Gray
Ministry of Natural Resources

There's a real fish story in Pointe au Baril. It involves six local residents, a pondful of walleye fingerlings and an innovative provincial government program.

The story starts back in December 1983, when the locals heard that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources had doubled the funds available through the Community Fisheries Involvement Program, or CFIP, for walleye culture -- which involves raising yellow pickerel.

Local people thought the program offered an excellent opportunity to help improve the pickerel fishing in the Pointe au Baril area, north of Parry Sound on Georgian Bay.

"We figured that the walleye populations in the area needed a bit of a boost, so we got together and formed the Pointe au Baril Fish Hatchery Association," said Ray Holl, a local tourist operator and one of the founders of the association.

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The newly founded association then applied to the Ministry of Natural Resources' Parry Sound district office to sponsor a walleye culture project under CFIP -- which encourages groups to tackle local fisheries projects with the assistance of ministry fisheries staff.

The six founders of the Pointe au Baril Fish Hatchery Association -- Ray Holl, Nick Scales, Karl Gross, Bruno Stella, Fred Miller and Roger Jones -- then started promoting memberships in the association. Donations ranged from \$25 for individuals to \$300 for resort owners.

But this turned out to be only the beginning. Within several months, they had collected thousands of dollars, had more than 150 members and had published an association newsletter.

"Sport fishing is tremendously important to this area, and I guess local people felt we were on to a good thing. We signed up lots of members, many of them contributing donations to the project that were over and above what we asked for," said Nick Scales, who also operates a resort in the area.

And the group collected more than money. Members of the association also collected a lot of information about walleye culture. They went to the ministry's Skeleton Lake Fish Culture Station three times -- each time picking up more ideas and tips from hatchery manager Mike Bohme.

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They talked to Lloyd Thurston, MNR's district biologist in Parry Sound. They phoned the State of Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, and they read everything they could find that dealt with how to raise walleye.

Throughout the winter of 1983-84, with the ministry's help, they also identified two natural ponds on Georgian Bay -- the future sites of their walleye hatchery.

In April, ministry staff collected some two million walleye eggs from spawning sites on the Shawanaga River near Pointe au Baril on Georgian Bay. The eggs were then transferred to a jar hatchery in Pointe au Baril which was built and operated by association members. Half of the eggs -- one million in all -- hatched successfully, and then were transferred to the two rearing ponds on Georgian Bay.

One of the ponds subsequently washed out, but between 65,000 and 130,000 fingerlings still remain in the other pond. They are destined to be stocked in the Shawanaga River this month. Once in the river, the young fish will mature and contribute to the local walleye stock that will benefit the entire community -- as well as the local tourist industry.

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The story of the Pointe au Baril Fish Hatchery is more than a fish story, however -- it's also a success story. It proves that interested members of the public can work very successfully with the government to get resource management jobs done quickly, effectively and efficiently.

The Pointe au Baril Fish Hatchery Association conducted the walleye culture project under the Community Fisheries Involvement Program at a total cost of about \$15,000 -- half of which came from the association and half from the ministry.

"Since it began three years ago, the Community Fisheries Involvement Program has led to major cost savings for the ministry. We estimate we've accomplished about \$1.6-million worth of fisheries management projects under the program -- at a total cost to the ministry of just under \$350,000," Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope said.

"Indeed, CFIP depends on the commitment and co-operation of thousands of volunteers across Ontario, and it has already accomplished a great many fisheries management projects which would probably not otherwise have been undertaken."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lloyd Thurston
District Biologist
PARRY SOUND (705) 746-4201



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July 10, 1984

FATHOM FIVE UNDERWATER PARK CELEBRATES ONTARIO'S BICENTENNIAL WITH MARINE HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

by
Nancy Rahtz
Ministry of Natural Resources

The treacherous waters pounding the rocky shoals and islands off the tip of the Bruce Peninsula -- between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay -- were the nemesis of many a sailing vessel throughout the early history of Ontario.

From the mid-19th to the early 20th century, sail and steam ships travelled this important trade and transportation route at their own risk. Even safety efforts such as the Cove Island Light Station, built in 1856, and Big Tub Light, built in 1885, could not guarantee a safe journey for all passing vessels.

Today much of this same area of deep, clear, cold water is known as Fathom Five Provincial Park -- the only freshwater underwater park in Canada -- and the remains of those ships "taken by the Bay" are one of its main attractions.

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Since the park opened in 1971, thousands of visitors have come to Fathom Five to look at these shipwrecks -- intrigued by the romance of the high seas, and the chance to see a piece of history undisturbed.

"Ontario has a tremendous marine heritage," says Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope. "Visitors to Fathom Five -- especially divers -- can see a special part of this heritage being preserved. Our programs at Fathom Five work toward ensuring the protection of this unusual cultural resource."

Within the boundaries of the park's 11,655 hectare underwater base lie the remains of 19 known shipwrecks. Documentation indicates that several more may be down there -- a continual challenge to the scuba divers exploring these waters every summer.

There may be other areas in the Great Lakes with more shipwrecks, says park superintendent Stan McClellan, but the right combination of shoreline and clear water make Fathom Five a natural site for viewing the ships.

The first thing to do when arriving at Fathom Five is to visit the park information office overlooking Little Tub Harbour in the town of Tobermory. Here you can pick up brochures on park activities, boat tours, guides to shipwreck locations and other area features. Anyone planning to scuba dive in the park must first register at this office.

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It's true Fathom Five is a mecca for sport divers, but you don't have to be one to enjoy the park's underwater attractions -- and that is what makes the park so popular. Some of the wrecks can be viewed clearly from "glass-bottomed" tour boats, and some are so close to the surface they can be seen by just looking over the side.

Tobermory is the jumping off point for travelling by the M.S. Chi-Cheemaun to Manitoulin Island. Many people who haven't time to stay overnight at one of the area motels or campgrounds, find it a nice break to take a two-hour boat tour of the park while waiting for the next ferry run.

Another unusual feature of Fathom Five is that it contains a park within a park. Some of the islands making up Georgian Bay Island National Park are located within Fathom Five's boundary, and can be visited by tour boat. Flowerpot Island, with its distinctive rock formations, is a popular destination for hikers who can go ashore and return on a later cruise. There are also six campsites on Flowerpot available on a first-come basis.

This year the theme at Fathom Five is "Discover Your Marine Heritage" -- in recognition of Ontario's Bicentennial.

As part of the summer's activities, a "Marine Heritage Awareness Weekend" will be held at Tobermory on August 4 and 5 to give park-goers an opportunity to learn more about Ontario's marine history.

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Audio/visual presentations on this subject will be shown four times a day on both Saturday and Sunday at the Crowsnest Theatre in Tobermory.

The weekend's main event will be an evening of films and guest speakers at the community centre, beginning at 8:15 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday. Film maker Larry Coplin will be there to show his film "Wreck of the Daniel Morell." Claus Breede, marine archeologist, will provide an update on efforts to preserve the War of 1812 shipwrecks -- Hamilton and Scourge -- located near St. Catharines.

The community centre in Tobermory will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, August 5 as a drop-in centre where Fathom Five staff will provide information on marine archeology and underwater survey projects, and will demonstrate related techniques and equipment.

Stan McClellan asks that anyone planning to attend the films arrive early to be sure of getting a seat.

Learning more about the history of the Great Lakes shipping route and the marine legacy in the park won't be limited to the August 4 weekend. Fathom Five staff, volunteers, and members of the Friends of Fathom Five Park are always ready to share their knowledge about the area and answer any questions visitors may have. The "Friends" is a non-profit organization which assists with park programs. Anyone interested in diving can often watch divers in action from many of the adjacent shore sites.

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At nearby Cyprus Lake Provincial Park, evening slide and film presentations on the area's natural and cultural history are held at various times throughout the summer. Details are posted at the park office.

Cyprus Lake offers camping facilities -- 242 sites -- as well as some of the best hiking trails on the Bruce Peninsula. Hikers can use the park's extensive trail system to explore the cliffs and caves overlooking Georgian Bay.

If you like to fish, the streams and bays throughout the area provide good opportunities for trout, bass, perch and pike.

"Fathom Five and the Bruce Peninsula really do offer activities for everyone," says Stan McClellan. "Diving, swimming, hiking, fishing or just looking at the spectacular scenery -- combined with the chance both to learn about and see some of our marine history -- make this park unique in the province."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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TOBERMORY (519) 596-2503



RESOURCES REPORT

A74N
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July 17, 1984

VOLUNTEERS LEND A HAND AT ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS

by Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Rob Mines won't get paid this summer, but this doesn't worry him a bit.

The 24-year-old Burlington steel worker took a three-month leave of absence from his job at Hunter Drums to become one of more than 20 volunteers on duty in Quetico Provincial Park in northwestern Ontario. An enthusiastic camper, this is Rob's first year as a provincial park volunteer.

He is one of the wilderness group leaders at Quetico, so he spends most days in the interior of the 475,819-hectare park -- rebuilding portages and making an inventory of wilderness campsites.

But it's not all work.

"I explore new areas when I get a chance, and I always find time to fish and swim," Mines says.

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volunteers - 2

Rob Mines learned about the provincial parks' volunteer program from a Ministry of Natural Resources advertisement.

"I found out more about it at the ministry's exhibit at the Toronto Sportsmen's Show this spring, and was convinced this was for me when I talked to one of the Quetico park staff there."

Ontario's provincial parks have always had volunteers of some sort -- usually local residents or campers offering to share their skills. The official program was launched in 1982, and by 1983, there were over 180 volunteers with signed agreements. As the program becomes better known, more and more eager people are expected to offer their services.

A lover of the outdoors himself, Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope sees the volunteer program as an ideal example of his ministry's wish to have greater public involvement in MNR activities.

"At Quetico, for instance, volunteers get valuable experience and self-satisfaction knowing that they have helped manage a piece of wilderness," he says. "They also become familiar with one of the finest wilderness areas in the world."

Early this spring, the Quetico volunteers had a week-long training session with the park's volunteer co-ordinator Dan Paleczny, and other staff.

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volunteers - 3

The group learned about the ministry and how the park is run. Volunteers are now maintaining portages and hiking trails, assessing campsites on each of the numerous interior lakes, and talking with park visitors and campers.

"Volunteers in our park's interior are expected to work hard under sometimes isolated and difficult conditions, but this hasn't dampened their enthusiasm," Paleczny says.

This summer, Algonquin Provincial Park has 10 student volunteers assisting the interior canoe rangers. Lake Superior and Killarney provincial parks also recruit volunteers to supplement their programs.

But the volunteers are not all found in remote areas of provincial parks. At Algonquin, one of them is staffing the historical logging exhibit, and both Algonquin and Quetico have volunteer campground hosts.

The campground hosts make their fellow campers "feel at home." They tell them about nearby facilities -- where to do their laundry, for instance -- and keep them up to date on park activities.

At Algonquin Provincial Park, retired traffic manager David MacPherson of St. Thomas, and his wife Alma, spent the first two weeks of July as hosts of the Kearney Campground on Highway 60. Retired newspaper publisher John Whetter, and his wife Vera, who live in Bracebridge, were hosts during the second two weeks.

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volunteers - 4

"We've always liked talking to people and like the camp life," MacPherson says.

He said that in the past, campers needing information had to either wait for park staff to come to the campground, or go to the office. Now the hosts have pamphlets and can answer most questions.

Jacquie Kerrigan, a legal secretary at Osgoode Hall in Toronto, and retired postmaster Jim Mulligan and his wife Helen, a writer, from Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, are hosts in Quetico Park campgrounds this summer.

Jacquie Kerrigan said their services have been enthusiastically received by other campers.

"They love the idea, especially our American visitors," she says.

"There are countless opportunities for volunteers in all of Ontario's provincial parks," says Alan Pope. "It can be a long or short commitment -- sometimes a local naturalist wants to share his bird-watching skills or an expert in campcraft wants to help his fellow campers. If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity, we'd like to know."

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volunteers - 5

Anyone interested in doing historical research, being a campground host, taking park pictures or volunteering in any other way, should contact the local ministry district office to find out about opportunities in parks in their area.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sheila MacFeeters
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

or

any District Office
of the ministry



RESOURCES REPORT

A34N
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July 20, 1984

Advisory to Editors:

Ontario's 137 provincial parks are offering free day use on August 6 -- the Civic Day holiday -- as a special Bicentennial gift to park users.

But there's more than free day use in many of the parks. Most are also offering Bicentennial festivities -- ranging from blueberry festivals and heritage displays to canoe demonstrations and softball tournaments.

Staff at the provincial parks in your area will be glad to fill you in on what's happening locally.

For more information on what's happening during the Civic Day Weekend or throughout the rest of the summer, call Clare Mahoney in our Outdoor Recreation Inquiries office in Toronto at (416) 965-3081.



RESOURCES REPORT

A24N
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July 24, 1984

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES BOOSTS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ONTARIO'S INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

by Nancy Rahtz
Ministry of Natural Resources

You may have never heard of fluorspar, feldspar or nepheline syenite. Or even barite, kaolin or calcium carbonate. But whether you know it or not, you are probably sitting on, wearing, or using something made with one or more of these strange sounding substances.

We scrub our sinks with feldspar, paint with calcium carbonate, insulate with vermiculite and set the table with nepheline syenite.

These are all industrial minerals -- the backbone of our construction, chemical and manufacturing industries. It's true they don't capture our imagination in the same way as the more glamorous minerals like gold, silver or diamonds -- but they are vital to our 20th century lifestyle.

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Without industrial minerals we wouldn't drink our morning orange juice out of a glass, take a shower in a ceramic-tiled bathroom, brush our teeth with toothpaste, ride to work in a car or bus, read a book, write with a pen or enjoy a movie.

Ontario has always been blessed with a readily available and inexpensive supply of these minerals. Building stone, and clay or shale fired brick were first manufactured here in the 18th century to meet the needs of the earliest settlers to the province. We've been mining salt since the 1860s and gypsum, talc and silica since the late 1800s.

Today, Ontario is a world leader in the production of certain industrial minerals and is the world's largest supplier of nepheline syenite -- used to make glass, ceramics, paints and plastics. For many years Ontario supplied the rest of Canada with all its salt needs, and is still a major producer and exporter of salt.

Right now there is a quiet but determined search going on across the province for new sources of industrial minerals.

"There are exciting opportunities for market development in industrial minerals in this province," says Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope. "We are now importing substantial quantities of these commodities which might be supplied from within. Self-sufficiency is important when considering how essential these items are to our industries."

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Kaolin -- widely used in the making of paper, paint, rubber and plastics -- is a good example of just one of several industrial minerals found in Ontario but not commercially mined. The United States is currently producing 40 per cent of the world's supply of this mineral. Canada produces no kaolin, but extensive deposits in northeastern Ontario have attracted exploration interest for more than 60 years and recent advances in mining techniques show promise for commercial production.

Other industrial minerals found in Ontario which offer strong opportunities for future development include graphite, mica, silica, lithium, phosphate rock and certain building stones.

The demand for building stone is increasing as architects move away from glass and steel to the more natural look of granite and other stone. Building stone has many advantages over glass and concrete. It is more energy-efficient due to its density and mass, and maintenance costs over the life of the building are lower. And with increased demand, more advanced processing techniques, and improved building methods, the cost of building stone is becoming more competitive.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is helping in the search for new mineral sources, as well as assisting expansion of existing facilities, through the Small Rural Industrial Mineral Development program.

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Since the program -- funded through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development (BILD) -- began in 1981, the ministry has awarded grants of \$3.37-million to five companies to expand their industrial mineral operations.

"The program is helping Ontario's industrial mineral producers move toward meeting our own provincial requirements for minerals, as well as developing export marketing opportunities," says Geoff Minnes, a policy analyst with the Ministry of Natural Resources industrial minerals section. "Industrial markets in southern Ontario, southwestern Quebec and the northeastern United States are the obvious targets for Ontario minerals."

Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources has a number of other programs designed to assist investors find and develop industrial mineral deposits. The ministry's Ontario Geological Survey has been invaluable in providing information, data and direction for locating universal mineral deposits of all kinds. And the Ontario Mineral Exploration Program will assist companies and individuals with up to 25 per cent of approved exploration costs.

Escalating transportation costs for imported minerals as well as the current exchange rate of the Canadian dollar are further incentives to increase domestic production -- especially for mineral fillers.

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"Transportation cost is a major factor in determining competitiveness in the filler industry," says G.R. Guillet, a private consultant who recently completed a market potential study of Ontario and the mineral filler industry for the ministry. "In many instances, haulage costs can be greater than the base value of the filler at the mine or plant."

Ontario industries rely on mineral fillers -- finely ground mineral matter -- for most manufacturing. Paper, paint, plastics, rubber, vinyl tile, carpet backing, putty, caulks, sealants and adhesive manufacturers all use fillers as low-cost additives. Fillers are a way of increasing the bulk of these products as well as enhancing the properties of the manufactured items in which they are used.

Industrial minerals are exceptional in that the properties of a single material can be used to advantage in so many different ways. Dolostone -- a magnesium-rich carbonate -- is no exception.

For example, in its least-processed form, the toughness of dolostone is valued for abrasion resistance and bulk. In different fragment sizes, it can protect shorelines from erosion, give crushing strength to concrete or skid resistance to road asphalt. As a mineral filler, it gives body to roofing shingles and noise barriers. Very fine grits of dolostone can be used as roughage for poultry.

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These are just a few applications. In fact, the Dundas quarry of Steetley Industries -- one of Canada's largest dolostone quarries -- maintains 46 different stockpiles of crushed but untreated material, which are used in the manufacture of over 100 products.

While dolostone is versatile, no other industrial mineral is as widely used in such a diverse range of industrial applications as limestone -- a calcium carbonate rock.

Geoff Minnes says the ministry is optimistic that the new calcium carbonate plant owned by Steep Rock Resources Inc. at Perth, in eastern Ontario, will take its place among the great producers of this important industrial mineral. In the five years since operations began, Steep Rock's Perth plant has become the major commercial producer of filler-grade calcium carbonate in eastern Canada. The company recently completed a \$7.1-million expansion assisted by a \$1.35-million provincial grant from the Small Rural Mineral Development program.

The Sixth International Industrial Minerals Conference held in Toronto in May focused attention on the worldwide uses of and markets for industrial minerals. The province of Ontario was highlighted as a potential source of many industrial minerals for world supply.

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"Ontario has the capability right now to assume a major role in the world's industrial mineral production," says Alan Pope. "The combination of existing mineral resources, the current economic situation and our government assistance programs, puts this province in an excellent position to significantly expand our markets."

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RESOURCES REPORT

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July 31, 1984

PRIVATE MANAGERS RUN SOME PROVINCIAL PARKS FOR MNR

by Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Sturgeon Bay Provincial Park, north of Parry Sound, is geared to fishing. Many of its campers, who return year after year to try their luck on Georgian Bay, go to bed early so they can rise at the crack of dawn to catch pike, muskie, pickerel and bass.

Dennis Stanley wishes he could join his angler guests, but he's too busy managing the small park leased to him in 1976 by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Stanley, a former Parry Sound police officer, was one of the first private residents to sign a lease or contract agreement with the ministry to manage one of Ontario's provincial parks. Since then, 13 others have followed suit.

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Mary Anne Wachoski has a lease to manage Middle Falls Provincial Park on the Pigeon River, 60 kilometres south of Thunder Bay. Its crowning feature is its namesake, a wide, pretty waterfall that tumbles into the Pigeon River Gorge. In the 1930s, huge white and red pine logs owned by the Pigeon River Lumber Company hurtled over nearby High Falls.

High up the Niagara Escarpment 16 kilometres south of Collingwood, Alice and Alfred Redpath manage Devil's Glen Provincial Park for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The Redpaths are never too busy to tell their visitors about the many nearby activities such as swimming in Georgian Bay, riding down the steep water slides at Collingwood -- always popular with thrill-seekers -- or watching pottery being made at the local factories.

Visitors usually can't tell which provincial parks are managed by private operators. The difference is that staff don't wear MNR uniforms -- the fees and facilities are the same.

Only smaller, recreation-oriented provincial parks are managed by private individuals," Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope says.

"Waterway, nature reserve, natural environment, wilderness and historical parks are still managed by the ministry."

He said that privatization of some parks has given the public a keener understanding of Ontario's resources, while saving the ministry operating costs.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RESOURCES REPORT

A24N
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August 1984

PROVINCIAL PARKS -- YOURS TO ENJOY!

by Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

When it comes to a popularity poll for provincial parks, eight million people can't be wrong! That's how many visited Ontario's provincial parks last year. And it's a sure bet that a lot of them will be back this year.

Ontario's 137 provincial parks -- scattered throughout the province -- have something to suit almost everybody.

There are busy parks -- with swimming, fishing, hiking, picnicking, and plenty more.

There are quieter parks -- where you can read, write, sunbathe, doze or simply day dream.

There are parks for canoe trippers -- with calm water for novices or whitewater for experts, with long routes and short routes.

There are parks steeped in history -- with petroglyphs and logging museums.

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There are wilderness parks for experienced adventurers. There are day use parks for family picnics. There are parks equipped with special features for disabled campers.

So whatever you are seeking, you are sure to find it in one of Ontario's provincial parks -- whether you want to learn about the wilderness or just soak up some sun.

There are a few things you should know, though, before you begin your trek to a park. First, plan your trip carefully.

Most parks are busy, especially on weekends and holidays. So book ahead if you can -- especially if you are going to one of the more popular parks such as Awenda, Killarney (George Lake Campground), Bon Echo, ~~Ip~~pperwash, Pinery, Presqu'ile, Sandbanks, Killbear, Sibbald Point, Earl Rowe or Balsam Lake.

In the peak season (mid-June to Labour Day) the Barrie Travel Centre provides a taped vacancy report on southern Ontario parks -- 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call (416) 963-2992.

You can reserve a campsite by mail, in person or by calling the park office. Your mail-in applications for a reserved site must reach the park two weeks before your arrival, and campers must include the camping fee and a \$2 reservation fee. The simplest method is to call the park directly, and pay your camping fees when you arrive. Most parks will accept your telephone call right up until the day you wish to camp.

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If you're a senior citizen, you have free day use in provincial parks -- except for camping on Fridays and Saturdays during the peak season -- June 15 to Labour Day.

If you must cancel, give park staff at least 48 hours' warning -- no refund will be made if you fail to cancel.

During the fall, reservations aren't needed. In fact, many northern Ontario parks don't require them at any time.

So, you have your campsite lined up, now what should you pack? Well, this depends on the park. Some parks like Sibbald Point and Awenda have all the comforts of home -- by all means bring your hairdryer and electric razor. Others, like Darlington or Holiday Beach, are next to major communities -- so you can include a night on the town as part of your holiday.

But if you plan to head into the wilderness -- to Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater in Temagami or Missinaibi Lake north of Chapleau -- go prepared. Once you're out there, you're on your own, so if you are not accustomed to roughing it, ask parks staff for advice or read about wilderness camping or canoeing.

General information can also be obtained from the Ministry of Natural Resources at (416) 965-3081, or drop by their office on the third floor of the Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Clare Mahoney
Outdoor Recreation Inquiries
TORONTO (416) 965-3081



RESOURCES REPORT

A24N
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September, 1984

SPECIALIZED FOREST MACHINERY CAUSES SILVICULTURAL REVOLUTION

By Steve Gray
Ministry of Natural Resources

Most people know how hard it is to prepare a garden for planting vegetables. Imagine having to prepare a forest -- with all its hills, valleys, rocks and bogs -- for replanting!

Today's foresters often shake their heads in near disbelief when they stop and think about the tremendous progress made in just over two decades here in Ontario in preparing forest sites for reingeneration.

"In the late '50s, our Geraldton district was using boulders dragged behind tractors to prepare suitable seed beds. Today, we use sophisticated equipment for the same type of job," says Tony Citro, an equipment specialist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto.

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Citro says that, over the past 25 years, there's been a quiet revolution in the development of machinery and equipment used in our province's forests -- the huge and often noisy denizens of the bush that have not only revolutionized the way timber is harvested, but also the way forests are regenerated.

"In fact, dozens of machines and specialized tools have been developed over the past 30 years or so to make site preparation methods more efficient. And many of the gadgets were developed right here in Ontario by our ministry," he says.

And this year, on September 17 and 18, a group of industry and government foresters and forest managers are going to Thunder Bay -- to hear and see some of the latest developments in this mechanical revolution.

The Canadian Pulp and Paper Association is sponsoring the Thunder Bay seminar to give those in the forest renewal business a chance to catch up on the latest advances in forest harvesting and site preparation equipment. And the Ministry of Natural Resources is closely involved.

"As the agency responsible for forest renewal in Ontario for several decades, the ministry has developed considerable expertise over the years -- as well as some interesting equipment -- to get new forests started effectively," says Natural Resources Minister Alan Pope.

The Minister adds that government forest managers sometimes learned by experience that specialized jobs require specialized equipment. "Often, they just adapted or invented what they needed from day to day," he says.

Tony Citro says some of the equipment that resulted ranges from the slightly exotic -- such as the arch plow and the Bigfoot scarifier -- to the more straightforward -- such as the sharkfin barrel. But he points out that all these special tools have made a gigantic contribution to Ontario's -- and Canada's -- forest industry.

"We've developed tools here in Ontario for almost every conceivable type of forest site. Some of the equipment originated in Scandinavia and the United States, of course, but we've had to adapt almost all of it to unique conditions in Ontario," he says.

Citro also points out something that many people don't appreciate: namely, that most harvested forest sites have to be properly prepared before a new forest will grow.

"The kind of site preparation a forest needs can vary widely, from prescribed burning, to herbicides that keep back competing vegetation, to ploughing furrows into the forest floor like a farmer's field," he says.

more...

In Ontario, Citro adds, the period between 1960 and 1980 saw the total forest area treated by planting and seeding triple. The same period saw the large-scale introduction of tube container planting as well as the replacement of hand seeding by machines and aircraft.

Beginning back in 1956 with Project Regeneration, Ontario government foresters have led the way in Canada -- pioneering what are now accepted as modern site preparation techniques.

As foresters developed the technical expertise in site preparation, they came to realize that a properly prepared site means better survival and better growth for young trees.

The ministry is heavily involved in this September's seminar in Thunder Bay. One MNR display will contain some of the latest pieces of site preparation equipment -- a ground chemical applicator and a two row ground seeding machine -- and features an audio-visual presentation of the two in action.

Another display will take up a much larger area. Two parcels of land, both located at the exhibit site, will be site-prepared in advance. Then MNR foresters will demonstrate how to go about evaluating the effectiveness of site preparation.

more...

The demonstration is being conducted jointly with the Canadian Forestry Service, and will be of particular interest to industry foresters -- since Ontario's forest companies are assuming increasing responsibility for site preparation and forest regeneration under the government's Forest Management Agreement (FMA) program.

It's probable that, as the industry increasingly gets into the forest regeneration business, much of the future pioneering work will be done by private foresters. Even so, Ontario's history books shouldn't forget to record the "noisy" revolution that the Ministry of Natural Resources' forest managers have brought about in forest site preparation equipment.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RESOURCES REPORT

A20N
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September 1984

SALMON AND TROUT FISHING IN LAKE ONTARIO

If you live in southern Ontario, you don't have to fly all the way to British Columbia to fish for Pacific salmon. In the last few years Lake Ontario has come to support a popular coho and chinook salmon fishery -- a favorite for anglers who appreciate the convenience of good fishing right on their doorstep.

That's due in large part to the efforts of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, which stocks millions of game fish in Ontario's lakes and rivers -- more than three million fish in the Great Lakes every year.

In Lake Ontario alone, the ministry stocked more than 1.48 million fish in 1984 -- coho and chinook salmon, as well as lake trout, brown and rainbow trout. This total is expected to increase to more than two million fish a year by 1987.

ANNUAL SALMONID STOCKING IN LAKE ONTARIO (1981-84)

	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Coho	333,552	112,033	217,708	105,605
Chinook	11,997	269,886	124,581	662,400
Rainbow Trout	81,234	68,466	104,915	110,000
Lake Trout	387,095	391,198	371,502	493,113
Brown Trout	-	57,150	123,331	111,844

more...

WHEN ARE COHO AND CHINOOK STOCKED?

Coho salmon are stocked in rivers in the spring, when they are at the smolt stage -- from 12 to 18 months in age and 10 to 18 centimetres in length. The smolts reach Lake Ontario after several days -- usually spending two summers and a winter in the lake before returning to their parent stream.

The coho spawning run can begin as early as late August, but the heavy runs are between mid-September and mid-November -- with a few stragglers still trickling upstream in December.

Chinook salmon are usually stocked as fingerlings, when they're between five and eight centimetres long. They normally mature and spawn in their fourth year, but some spawn a year earlier or a year later.

Since the fall of 1977, the Ministry of Natural Resources has collected coho and chinook eggs from salmon in the Credit River and Bronte Creek.

WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO FISH FOR PACIFIC SALMON?

In early spring and summer the salmon are fairly scattered -- some can be found in streams or close to river mouths, others are further out in the lake. From mid-summer to early fall they will be seeking the cooler temperatures of deep water.

In shallow waters -- where they concentrate in large, loose schools, close to the surface -- they will hit a variety of lures. Out in the lake, however, using downrigger equipment is the best way to catch them.

The coho salmon prefers an ambient water temperature of 11 degrees Celsius (54 degrees F), and many anglers use temperature probes to find the correct depth.

The best place to catch them is in the southern part of the western basin -- from just east of Toronto to the Niagara River.

WHEN IS THE SALMON AND TROUT FISHING SEASON?

Pacific salmon are in season year-round in Lake Ontario and its tributary streams -- except where the Ministry of Natural Resources has created sanctuaries.

The best time to fish for Pacific salmon in Lake Ontario is in the late summer and early fall. The creel limit for Lake Ontario is five salmon a day. This may include any combination of the salmonid species -- coho, chinook, rainbow trout, brown trout and lake trout -- but cannot include more than three lake trout.

IDENTIFYING PACIFIC SALMON



Adult COHO salmon have steel-blue or greenish backs, silvery sides and white underbellies. In the fall, breeding males have blue-green backs and heads, red-striped sides, hooked snouts, enlarged teeth, and lower gums that are grey-white.



Adult CHINOOK have irridescent blue-green backs and upper sides, silvery sides and silvery to white underbellies. The back has a few large black spots and the lower gums are black. At breeding time, chinook are olive brown to purple.

LOCATIONS OF LAKE ONTARIO SALMON AND TROUT STOCKING

CHINOOK STOCKING BY ONTARIO (1980-84)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Credit River	-	11,997	54,046	124,581	200,000
Bronte Creek	17,603	-	165,840	-	144,774
Martindale Pond	-	-	50,000	-	100,220
Hamilton Harbour	-	-	-	-	65,584
Jordan	-	-	-	-	51,620
Port Weller	-	-	-	-	100,202

COHO STOCKING BY ONTARIO (1980-84)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Credit River	136,750	274,052	74,468	93,237	73,766
Bronte Creek	112,375	59,500	25,085	24,449	-
Martindale Pond	-	-	12,480	100,022	31,839

LAKE TROUT STOCKING BY ONTARIO (1980-84)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Port Weller	25,000	-	-	-	-
Bronte Creek	25,016	-	-	-	-
Clarkson Pier	69,500	94,992	-	-	-
Port Hope	65,000	73,580	101,345	100,002	90,188
Main Duck Island	198,580	200,380	200,043	182,985	37,950
Grimsby	-	18,360	89,830	84,615	75,000
Bath	-	-	-	3,900	-
Charity Shoal	-	-	-	-	289,975

RAINBOW TROUT STOCKING BY ONTARIO (1980-84)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Credit River	263,846	81,234	68,466	95,675	100,000
Bronte Creek	5,000	-	-	-	10,000
Duffin Creek	60,000	-	-	9,240	-

BROWN TROUT STOCKING BY ONTARIO (1980-84)

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>
Bronte Creek	-	-	-	21,270	20,040
Burlington Canal	-	-	-	23,546	20,368
Port Hope	-	-	19,000	5,040	5,000
Collins Bay	-	-	19,150	29,800	26,436
Martindale Pond	-	-	-	22,005	20,000
Rouge River	-	-	19,000	-	20,000
Humber River	-	-	-	21,670	-

IS IT SAFE TO EAT SALMON AND TROUT FROM LAKE ONTARIO?

Yes it is -- within limits.

Recent test results taken from over 80,000 fish indicate that several of the pollutants which were prevalent 10 to 15 years ago have declined both in level and significance in sport fish.

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment produces a publication, "Guide to Eating Ontario Sport Fish", that provides up-to-date advice on recommended levels of consumption of game or sport fish from nearly 1,300 of Ontario's lakes, rivers and locations on the Great Lakes -- including Lake Ontario. Copies of the books are available free of charge from offices of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The Ontario Ministry of Health recommends that anglers who catch and eat salmon from Lake Ontario should restrict themselves to occasional meals -- no more than one or two meals a week -- and only for a three-week period.

Children under 15 and women of child-bearing age should only eat fish which have no health restrictions.

A FEW TIPS...

Anglers should remember that it is unwise to venture far from shore in small boats on Lake Ontario, because the wind and weather conditions can change rapidly in a very few minutes. If you're interested in open water fishing, why not consider hiring a charter boat? Full or half-day excursions can be arranged easily, and the equipment is usually provided.

For information on chartering a boat -- or more about salmon fishing in Lake Ontario -- get in touch with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Information Branch in Toronto at (416) 965-7883.

Or you can call the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's toll-free number -- 1-800-268-3735 -- for an update on fishing regulations, where the popular fishing spots are, and charter information.

RESOURCES REPORT

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September 1984

MUSKIE FISHING IN ONTARIO

Most fishermen agree that the muskellunge -- better known as muskie -- provides some of the most exciting freshwater sport fishing in the world. Muskies are fierce fighters -- famous for their size, strength and stamina.

Next to the sturgeon, muskies are Canada's largest freshwater fish. They generally weigh from five to 36 pounds and measure 28 to 48 inches. But there are stories of fishermen spotting six-foot muskies weighing up to 80 pounds. So far, the record muskie catch for Ontario is 61 pounds, 9 ounces landed by an angler casting at Eagle Lake near Kenora. It measured 59 inches in length with a 31 inch girth.

The anticipation of hooking one of these highly-prized fighters -- and maybe breaking the Ontario record -- brings thousands of anglers to Ontario's lakes every year. Here are a few tips on where to find muskies in Ontario and how to go about landing one.

HABITAT

Muskies tend to be solitary fish, preferring to lurk in shallow, weedy waters of warm lakes, or slow moving, heavily vegetated rivers. But some of the bigger ones can also be found in deeper, less vegetated water.

HOW TO CATCH MUSKELLUNGE

Because muskies are such sedentary fish, still fishing is usually ineffective. The best way to hook one is to drift with live bait on the edge of a weed bed. They are also caught by trolling in lakes, or casting into the weeds or stumps of a known muskie habitat. They respond well to large artificial lures -- up to 12 inches in length -- or large, live bait such as chubs or suckers. Heavy tackle with a long wire lead is best. Recommended lures include:

Pikie Minnow
Cisco Kid
Canadian Wiggler
Heddon Tiger
Rapala

Mepps Muskie Killer
Suick
Believer
Bucktail Spinners
Swim Whiz

more...

WHERE TO GO IN ONTARIO FOR GOOD MUSKIE FISHING

NORTHERN ONTARIO

Dryden District
Eagle Lake
Wabigoon Lake
Cedar Lake

Kenora District
Winnipeg River
Lake of the Woods

North Bay District
French River
Lake Nipissing
Lake Nosbonsing
Restoule Lake

Parry Sound District
Georgian Bay/Magnetawan River
Georgian Bay/Moon River Basin

Sioux Lookout District
Abram Lake
Big Vermilion Lake
Minnitaki Lake

Sudbury District
Lake Huron/Georgian Bay
Neepawasi Lake

SOUTHERN ONTARIO

Bancroft District
Elephant Lake
Kasshabog Lake

Chatham District
Lake St. Clair

Cornwall District
St. Lawrence River
Lake St. Francis
Lake St. Lawrence

Huron District
Lake Couchiching
Gloucester Pool
Six Mile Lake

Lindsay District
Cameron Lake
Chemung Lake
Buckhorn Lake
Lake Scugog
Sturgeon Lake
Rice Lake

Pembroke District
Centennial Lake
Lake Madawaska

Tweed District
Crowe Lake
Moir Lake
Stoco Lake

A REMINDER TO NON-RESIDENTS

If you're visiting Ontario to fish for muskie, remember that you'll need a special \$5 tag to catch this fish, in addition to a regular non-resident angling licence. All licences and tags are available through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Queen's Park, Toronto, MNR district offices or authorized licence issuers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about fishing in Ontario, call the Ministry of Natural Resources, Outdoor Recreation Information in Toronto at (416) 965-7883, or the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation's toll free number -- 1-800-268-3735. Or, write to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Fisheries Information, First Floor, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1W3.



RESOURCES REPORT

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December 1984

FISH AND WILDLIFE SHORTS

Ontario otters in Missouri

Hands across the border has new meaning these days as Ontario sends otters to Missouri in exchange for some wild turkeys.

In a mutual agreement with our U.S. neighbors, MNR is transferring 15 of the fun-loving fish eaters for 30 wild gobblers. The latest gobblers join others released earlier in Haldimand County, to help re-build the province's once extinct wild turkey population.

Ontario's registered trappers are happy too. They receive \$250 from the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters Wild Turkey Trust Fund for each live-trapped otter that journeys across the border.

more...

Of Moose and Man

Moose from the Timmins, Thunder Bay, Quetico and Algonquin provincial parks areas are starry-eyed these days. They're feature attractions of a new film produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The 21-minute wildlife film -- Of Moose and Man -- provides an excellent insight into moose behavior, full of superb close-ups of these mighty animals in the wild.

The film tells how to identify bulls, cows and calves in dense bush, describes the life-cycle and habits of moose, and explains the provincial strategy to increase Ontario's herd.

Of Moose and Man was filmed by Lloyd Walton of the ministry's Communications Services Branch. Both Walton and his assistant, Peter Elliott, received help from ministry staff, who kept them posted on the whereabouts of moose during all seasons of the year.

More moose in Ontario

Ontario's selective moose harvest is working.

Ray Stefanski, moose-caribou program co-ordinator for the Ministry of Natural Resources, says that in just two years the program has assured the survival of more reproductive stock for the future.

more...

Under the selective harvest, hunters buy a licence then apply for a cow or bull tag. Their names are then entered in a computer draw. If they fail to receive an adult validation tag, they can still harvest a calf.

The aim of the selective harvest is to lessen hunting pressure on the reproductive stock -- especially cows. Stefanski explains that since only about 50 per cent of the calves will survive the winter, more of these animals should be harvested.

"After two years, the balance of bulls and cows in the herd has improved significantly," says Stefanski.

Of the estimated 9,000 moose taken during the 1984 hunting season, about 2,250 were cows and 5,400 were bulls.

Stefanski believes that there will be a population of 160,000 moose by the year 2000, and that some 25,000 of them can be harvested annually. The current population is estimated to be slightly more than 80,000.

More power to Tiffin

Whoever said that technology and wildlife don't mix hadn't heard of Tiffin Conservation Area, 10 kilometres west of Barrie.

more...

A major Ontario Hydro transmission corridor -- carrying two heavy duty power lines -- that runs close to Tiffin, will be included in additional recreational land to be acquired in 1986 by the Nottawasaga Conservation Authority.

This portion of Hydro's James Bay-to-Toronto corridor that cuts through a semi-wilderness area surrounded by farmland, will continue to be maintained as a haven for birds and wildlife.

A local sports club protects rainbow trout that spawn in a cold-water stream directly below the lines, and the area around the hydro towers attracts deer, rabbits, muskrats, weasels, brush wolves and red-tailed hawks.

The conservation authority and Ontario Hydro staff have planted thousands of low shrubs and other ground cover to benefit birds and wildlife in the corridor, and will plant 15,000 more shrubs by 1988 to provide both food and shelter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Doreen Pearson
Wildlife Information
TORONTO (416) 965-4251

Kay Jones
Fisheries Information
TORONTO (416) 965-7883



RESOURCES REPORT

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December 1984

ONTARIO'S ART GALLERIES IN THE WILDERNESS

Ask Ontarians to describe "Indian art" and some will talk of Inuit paintings and soapstone carvings. Others might mention the totem poles of Canada's West Coast tribes.

There is, however, a whole world of lesser known native art right at our doorstep -- that of the early Great Lakes Indians.

The best examples of this work are not found in art galleries and souvenir shops, but in "wilderness art galleries" in our own provincial parks.

Either carved or painted in red ochre on stone -- much of it tucked away in special places -- the rock art of some early Great Lakes tribes consists of masterpieces that are accessible to everyone.

Art has always been an integral part of Indian life on the Great Lakes. Frequently, these first Ontario artists used the surface of rocks as their canvas. With their fingers, they painted images with a combination of rusted iron ore ochre and possibly a binding agent of bear grease or fish oil.

more...

This created a near-permanent bond superior to modern-day paints, allowing these images on stone to endure every kind of inclement weather for centuries to come. These are the pictographs still found in so many of Ontario's provincial parks.

If the rock was soft enough, the images were carved with sharply pointed stone tools. Such expressions are called petroglyphs.

The images found in Ontario's rock art are frequently the same as the abstract motifs etched on birchbark scrolls, canoes, hunting tools, drums and other ritual objects and stitched, quilled and woven into various personal belongings.

From mid-October of 1984 until January 6 of 1985, the McMichael Canadian Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario, is exhibiting one of the finest collections of nineteenth century art indigenous to the Great Lakes. The display called "Patterns of Power", consists largely of artifacts collected by Jasper Grant, a British army officer stationed in Canada between 1800 and 1809.

On loan from the National Museum of Ireland, the Grant collection, along with other artifacts of the period has been assembled by Dr. Ruth Phillips, Associate Curator at the McMichael Canadian Collection. These artifacts offer an invaluable insight into the religion, philosophy and lifestyle of Ontario's native peoples around the turn of the nineteenth century, as well as their relationship to the European settlers of that period.

more...

What we regard today as a highly sophisticated form of artistic expression was first and foremost a complex mode of communication, an expression of culture and religion, reflecting a strong belief in the supernatural.

The ancestors of the Cree, Ojibwa, Algonquin and Mississauga tribes in Ontario believed in a wide variety of gods or manitous. The Thunderbird of Ahsin Lake in Quetico Provincial Park, for example, represents a mythical god that created thunder and lightning. The Turtle etched in the rock of Petroglyphs Provincial Park near Peterborough -- site of the most spectacular concentration of Indian rock carvings -- was often the symbol of fertility and often seen as the earth itself.

Along Cache Bay of Saganaga Lake also in Quetico, can be seen ancient figures of humans, images of shamans thought to be people with both good and evil supernatural powers.

Images of water monsters or Misshepezhieu, the Great Horned Lynx can be seen in Lake Superior Provincial Park and Bon Echo Provincial Park, among others. And Missinaibi Lake Provincial Park is just one area where visitors can admire images of the most feared manitou, the Bear, thought centuries ago to be the strongest and most supernatural of all animals.

more ...

The exhibition at the McMichael Canadian Collection provides us with the opportunity to better our understanding of early native cultures in Ontario. But viewing Indian rock art in its natural setting is a thrill that should not be missed.

Sightings of rock paintings and carvings in our provincial parks provide stunningly real evidence of the close link among art, nature and religion in the culture of the first Ontarians.

-30-

EDITORS: Photographs of rock art are available. Please call Pam Hancock at (416) 963-1325.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Gary Forma
Parks and Recreational Areas Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

RESOURCES REPORT

A-24N
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January 1985

NATURE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

by Nancy Rahtz
Ministry of Natural Resources

Wetlands are probably one of nature's best kept secrets. After all, how many of us realize that these wet, swampy, and often mosquito-infested areas of land can also be home to rare birds and wildlife, a source of rich, organic soil, a holding tank and purifying filter for flood waters, spawning grounds for sport fish, and an important contributor to Ontario's economy?

Popular misconceptions about the true value of wetlands -- swamps, marshes, bogs and fens -- go back to the early settlers. To them, wetlands were little more than nuisance areas creating barriers to homesteading. Over the years wetlands were drained and filled to make way for urban, industrial and agricultural growth, in the continued belief that these marshy areas were of little value.

more...

Much of this typical low regard for swampland's natural value continues today. However, the wetlands dotting the landscape of southern Ontario are quickly being recognized as natural resources which can have an important impact on our lives -- both economically and ecologically -- if they are managed properly.

To help promote the wise management of this long overlooked resource, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources Alan Pope announced provincial wetland guidelines in April 1984. The new guidelines gave municipalities and other planning agencies a management tool with which to protect significant wetlands, and a means of determining whether stronger measures may be necessary in the future.

And to further help the public better understand the need to preserve existing wetlands, the Ministry of Natural Resources has chosen a wetlands theme for this year's Canadian National Sportsmen's Show in Toronto.

Visitors to the MNR exhibit at the show, held from March 15 to 24, will get a chance to walk through a simulated wetland -- complete with beaver dam and beaver -- and see for themselves the many ways we unknowingly benefit from swamps and marshes.

A wetland is defined as an area -- varying in size from a fraction of a hectare to many thousands of hectares -- that is covered by up to two metres of water until at least July 1 every year. Swamps, fens, mires, marshes, bogs, sloughs and peatlands are some of the various types of wetlands, each distinguished by the vegetation it supports.

Southern Ontario once contained an estimated two million hectares of wetlands, but three quarters of this has already been filled or drained. And depletion is continuing -- through shoreline disturbance, land clearing, drainage, filling, impoundment and peat extraction.

Why is wetland loss a cause for concern? There are many reasons: social, economic, and ecological.

Wetlands provide important economic resources such as timber, fur and wild rice -- products estimated to be worth more than \$300-million annually to Ontario.

All wetlands provide wildlife habitat. And some wetlands provide the only environment able to support certain unique or endangered plants, animals and internationally important migratory birds. The piping plover, Lake Erie water snake, and the White Lady's Slipper orchid, are designated endangered species found in southern Ontario wetlands.

Wetlands bring tourists to the province by providing areas for outdoor recreation activities such as hunting, fishing and birdwatching. It is estimated that 50 million user-days are provided annually in Ontario for these activities, contributing more than \$800-million a year to our economy.

Wetlands provide nesting habitat for 70 per cent of the waterfowl in North America.

more...

And birdwatchers find some of their best viewing areas in wetlands. At Long Point on Lake Erie, more than 300 species of migratory birds -- including tundra swans, whistling swans, ducks, geese and up to 125 varieties of warblers -- can be spotted at different times of the year.

Wetlands located along the shores of rivers and lakes support spawning grounds and nursery habitat for a large variety of sport fish including muskies, pike, perch and largemouth bass.

Water quality and water control are also important aspects of the wetland ecosystem. Some wetlands act as nature's sponge by soaking up rainfall during peak periods and releasing it over the following months. Others contribute to water quality through an active filtering process which absorbs pollutants from runoff before it enters other water systems.

Some wetlands -- the Holland Marsh north of Toronto is a prime example -- contain organic soils of value to agriculture for cash crops like carrots, onions and celery.

The new provincial wetland guidelines are the result of three years of consultation involving the province, municipalities, conservation authorities and many public interest groups. All these groups share the same goal -- to ensure that wetlands are managed in keeping with both the present and long-term needs of the people of Ontario.

more...

As the first step in implementing the guidelines, the Ministry of Natural Resources is conducting an inventory of wetlands in southern Ontario. Wetlands are being identified, classified and ranked into seven categories.

Wetlands which are considered to be of provincial significance will be placed in categories one and two indicating that they should be kept in a natural state.

Despite the loss of wetlands to land clearing, urban development, and agriculture, preliminary surveys have identified more than 10,000 individual wetlands remaining in southern Ontario.

We all benefit from wetlands -- directly or indirectly. Now that we know we need them, we can develop or preserve our remaining wetlands with these benefits in mind.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Wildlife Branch
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RESOURCES REPORT

April 1985

SEASON STARTS EARLY FOR RAINBOWS

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Many Ontario anglers look forward to giving themselves a spring treat every year -- to be part of the excitement on opening day of the rainbow trout season. The fun begins this year on Saturday, April 27.

These early anglers will probably have lots of company, because at favorite rainbow trout streams like the Credit River just west of Toronto, there are always hundreds of other anglers jockeying for position along its banks. They'll be trying to catch their first rainbow when the season opens at one minute past midnight Friday night. Many arrive hours beforehand for that first chance.

"Some anglers don't have their fishing gear ready on time," says Kay Jones, a fisheries inquiries officer with the Ministry of Natural Resources in Toronto. "They thread their line on the spot, and then lose a lot of time while they get their hands warm again."

more...

Jones says anglers should get ready for the spring rainbow trout season a week or two before opening day. "That's the best time to clean and sort out equipment and sharpen hooks."

Spy on Spawners

Early April is also a good time to visit shallow streams and watch spawning rainbow trout jumping and fighting the fast currents. Besides being an interesting pastime, rainbow watching gives eager anglers an idea of what superb fighters these fish can be.

There are 11 fish ladders throughout southern Ontario that open up miles of spawning grounds for rainbow trout and offer many opportunities for viewing.

"Two popular viewing streams within a short driving distance of Metropolitan Toronto are the Ganaraska River near Port Hope, and Wilmot Creek near Newcastle. There are also several in the Owen Sound area," Jones says.

more...

Sanctuaries

Some streams in Ontario are designated as sanctuaries. This means they have been set aside to protect fish species when they are most vulnerable -- mainly during spawning periods. As a result, they're off limits to fishermen at that time.

For a list of sanctuaries, check the 1985 Summary of Fishing Regulations, available in both English and French from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources or licence issuers.

Techniques

Fly fishing can involve casting from shore or from mid-stream, and is a popular method among rainbow trout anglers.

Ultra-sensitive fly rods are quickly becoming standard equipment for rainbows, and the rods are a must when short casts are made upstream and the line drifts with the current.

Spinning outfits are good in larger waters, and are great for casting lures such as the Mepps Black Fury, the Little Cleo and the Flatfish. Line strength should always be chosen to match the conditions and the type of rod being used. Two-kilogram (six-pound) test line is ideal for casting, while four-kilogram (eight pound) test line is best for trolling and faster-flowing water.

Most anglers concentrate their efforts on deeper areas of streams (holding pools). Rainbow trout tend to gather in these deeper areas, which are usually darker than shallower water.

Catch Big Ones

"There are some mighty big rainbows out there," says Kay Jones, who recently landed a seven-kilogram (15 pound) "bow." She says the average weight of rainbow trout runs from just under a kilogram (two pounds) to two kilograms (four pounds), but adds that many anglers catch rainbows weighing more than five kilograms (11 pounds). Ontario's rainbow trout record is 13.21 kilograms (29 pounds) -- a whopper caught in 1975 at the mouth of Georgian Bay's Nottawasaga River.

- 30 -

EDITORS: A list of some of Ontario's most popular rainbow trout streams is attached. Photographs are available. Please call Pam Hancock at (416) 963-1325.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Kay Jones
Outdoor Recreation Inquiries
TORONTO (416) 965-7883

ONTARIO RAINBOW TROUT STREAMS

With spawning runs of over 200 fish

Lake Ontario Tributaries

Shelter Valley Creek
Ganaraska River
Wilmot Creek

Duffin Creek
Credit River
Bronte Creek

Georgian Bay Tributaries

Colpoy's Creek
Gleason Brook
Pottawatomi River
Pretty River
Sydenham River
Sturgeon River
Telfer (Bothwell's Creek)

Bighead River
Beaver River
Indian Brook
Silver Creek

Lake Huron Tributaries

Bayfield River
Lucknow River
Saugeen River

Sauble River
Spring Creek
Willow Creek

Manitoulin Island Streams

Mindemoya River
Manitou River
Bluejay Creek

Lake Erie Tributaries

Young Creek
Big Creek

Fisher's Creek
Big Otter Creek

more...

Lake Superior

Cloud River
Lomond River
Neebing River
MacKenzie River
Pearl River
Wolf River
Little Trout Creek
Jackpine River
Cypress River
Gravel River
Little Pic River
Pic River
University River
Michipicoten River
Montreal River
Carp River
Stokely Creek

Jarvis River
Kaministiquia River
McIntyre River
Portage Creek
Coldwater Creek
Big Trout Creek
Nipigon River
Dublin Creek
Little Gravel River
Steel River
Angler Creek
Pukaskwa River
Dore River
Agawa River
Pancake River
Batchawana River

North Channel Tributaries

St. Mary's River

RESOURCES REPORT

24N
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April 1985

ONTARIO'S OUTDOOR FILM-MAKER

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Ever meet up with an over-friendly moose?

Hob-nobbing with one of these mighty mammals isn't exactly everybody's cup of tea. Especially if you're lying flat on your stomach to get a picture, and she trots right up and licks the camera lens. It can be pretty darned unnerving.

That's what happened to Lloyd Walton, who makes outdoor films for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. It's all in a day's work to him -- he just pushed the moose's nose away and kept on filming.

Walton's 14-year film-making career with the ministry has supplied him with a wealth of stories.

On one project, he and his crew were attempting to film a Thunderbird -- an ancient Indian rock painting on the shore of Mackenzie Lake in Quetico Provincial Park. The camera was perched precariously on a rock, and strong winds kept blowing it away from the Thunderbird.

more ...

Finally, after an assistant helped hold the camera down firmly, the crew got the shot. But while the crew was leaving the site by canoe, a powerful wave overturned their boat and the captured image of the Thunderbird was lost to the water.

Perhaps the great god of the lake objected to this intrusion on sacred native art.

Each time Walton makes a film he must decide on the theme, as well as the different moods and feelings that should run through the story.

Originality is always one of his primary concerns. He depends on music and color to create desired effects, and likes to hire musicians for each project rather than using pre-recorded music.

"The music conveys a mood. Each note, the texture and the rhythm provide added dimensions to the visual images," Walton says.

In the '60s, Walton worked summers as a graphic designer with CJIC-TV in his home town of Sault Ste. Marie, while studying advertising and animation at the Ontario College of Art.

Film work didn't occur to him then. His sights were set on exhibit design. But, after viewing films at Expo '67 in Montreal, he felt they offered a new challenge, and decided to become a film-maker.

In 1970, he began working at the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests -- later the Ministry of Natural Resources -- where he has found the perfect outlet for his ambitions.

more ...

Walton has produced a number of award-winning films during his years with the ministry.

One of them, Natural Journey, shows how visitors to Ontario can enjoy the many opportunities in and around provincial parks.

Walton recalls that to finish Natural Journey on time, a beach scene had to be filmed in December. Even though it was freezing cold, he persuaded the actress to pose in a swimsuit on the sand -- a true Stoic of the celluloid.

"She performed well," says Walton, "but had to take four days off work after we finished the shooting."

Natural Journey was judged the best Ontario government film of 1982, and has since been translated into Dutch, German, Japanese and French. During the year it was released, it was screened in the United States for an estimated two-million people.

Snow, another Walton winner, focuses on winter activities in provincial parks. A sequel to Natural Journey, Snow illustrates how Ontario winters are eagerly anticipated by winter sports enthusiasts. The film won a Bijou Award as the best promotional film of the year at the 1981 Canadian Film and Television Awards presentation.

Walton has also won nine U.S. awards, including four Gold Camera awards and one Silver at the Chicago Film Festival.

He is particularly fond of Biscotasing, a slide film about a small Ontario town. After 12 years, it still appears regularly on TV Ontario.

more...

Walton is on hand wherever a new MNR film is made -- whether in an urban community or in the far northern wilderness. He saw his first live moose in 1963, and has been fascinated with these animals ever since.

"Whenever I needed a moose in a film, I found them elusive, and often had to search all day before seeing any."

Since then he has looked several right in the eye -- including the one that licked his camera lens. That's when he was filming Of Moose and Man, one of MNR's newest films.

"I was lying on my stomach trying to zoom in on this cow moose from quite a distance," Walton says. "She came right up and licked the camera lens -- a good omen for the first day of shooting. Later that day, a bull started doing the same thing. When I reached for my zoom stick he bolted away -- thank heavens!"

The film features moose from near Timmins and Thunder Bay and from Quetico and Algonquin provincial parks.

Ministry staff kept Walton and his freelance assistant, Peter Elliott, posted on the whereabouts of the moose during all seasons. This meant that Lloyd could film all his moose scenes in just 10 days -- a considerable saving of time and money. Post-production was completed by a wildlife documentary film company.

more ...

The 21-minute wildlife film provides an excellent insight into moose behavior, and is full of superb close-ups of these magnificent animals in the wild.

More recently, Walton has been working on a film about life in an early 1900s white pine logging camp in Ontario.

The shooting location is a reconstructed lumber camp in Marten River Provincial Park near North Bay. The film will be shown in the park's new orientation centre.

"Many people believe we have a large production staff, but that's not the case," says Walton. "Our films are produced on a surprisingly low budget. Many of the actors are ministry people and the camera work is either done by freelancers or myself."

A 1985 catalogue of about 150 titles is now available from:

MNR Film Library
Communications Services Branch
Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1W3

Films are loaned free of charge, and may be ordered from the film custodian of the Branch's audio-visual unit.

Telephone Toronto (416) 963-1325.

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EDITORS: Photographs are available. Please call
Pam Hancock at (416) 963-1325.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Alan Campeau
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 963-1325

RESOURCES REPORT

A24N
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R76

April 1985

SACRED ART PRESERVED

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Between 500 and 1,000 years ago, some Algonkian-speaking Indians transformed a wide, smooth bedrock near Stony Lake into a strange and mysterious canvas of sacred symbols.

Little did these people realize that their art would help those of us in the 20th century to understand at least a little of their culture -- a culture with a profound respect for the earth and all its creatures.

The symbols at this site northeast of Peterborough may have been among Ontario's first rock carvings or petroglyphs. They are part of a tradition of rock art inspired in part by a strong belief in the supernatural.

But after that, this rock was abandoned. Perhaps those responsible for the petroglyphs simply moved away. For decades their work was left to the mercy of the elements.

more...

Then fate intervened. Twenty-nine years ago, several geologists from a mine at the nearby village of Nephton stopped on the rock for a lunch break. Spreading their sandwiches on its flat surface, they noticed some strange markings. Closer examination revealed literally hundreds of etched figures.

Lunch was quickly forgotten. Excitedly, the geologists traced with their fingers outlines of birds, moose, bears, turtles with eggs, snakes and stick-like humans, and a most unusual canoe -- perhaps magical craft that travelled the Algonkian universe. It is this canoe which has led some to speculate about more exotic origins of the carvings.

Later, they were to learn that the site of their valuable find had been carefully chosen many centuries ago.

Waterfalls, and certain types of landscapes, were believed to be the abode of spirits. The rumblings of an underground stream and crevices at this site may have held special meaning for the carvers.

In 1976, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources established Petroglyphs Provincial Park which brought the site of the rock carvings within its boundaries.

Later -- after a detailed study conducted by scientists of the National Museum of Canada's Canadian Conservation Institute -- it was decided that the carvings had to be protected from a destructive lichen and from constant exposure to the elements.

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The only practical solution -- reached after consultation with several authorities -- was a permanent building which would be in harmony with the natural surroundings and with the carvings themselves.

The building -- which will be officially opened in May -- has seven glass sides and a solid roof. It offers a sense of space and freedom while providing permanent protection for the carvings and a better view of them. There is a paved pathway for easy wheelchair access, and indirect lighting helps visitors to discern many of the more obscure carvings.

"This beautiful structure will not only serve to protect the petroglyphs for posterity, but will be a permanent memorial to some of Ontario's first inhabitants who left us such a valuable heritage," Natural Resources Minister Michael Harris said.

Dr. Romas Vastokas, head of anthropology at Peterborough's Trent University, agrees that it is important to preserve this fragile site from the elements and vandalism.

"My wife -- an art historian -- and I, have visited many petroglyph sites across Canada and find this one to be not only the most interesting, but the largest. This is the first major attempt to protect our heritage, and other jurisdictions would do well to emulate it," he said.

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Brian Molyneaux, a rock art researcher with the Royal Ontario Museum, is also pleased with the result.

"The building's wonderful! It's impressive and presents the petroglyph rock in a sensitive way without destroying the ambience," he said. "It will also allow visitors to focus on the petroglyphs in a way not possible before the building was erected."

Further examples of native rock art occur in Ontario, but the majority are pictographs or painted symbols. They can be seen near Sioux Narrows and at Bon Echo (Mazinaw Lake), Lake Superior (Agawa Bay), and Missinaibi Lake provincial parks. Call the ministry's provincial park information number in Toronto, (416) 965-3081 for locations and travel directions.

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RESOURCES REPORT

April 1985

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SHORTS

No elbow test

Dipping a sensitive elbow into baby's tepid bath water to "guesstimate" the temperature may work well for mothers -- but Ontario's fisheries biologists do not recommend it for lakes and rivers.

Instead, they endorse a scientific water testing kit, similar to one presented to Owen Sound district biologist Steve Kerr by Port Elgin's Lake Huron Fishing Club.

A far cry from elbow-dunking, the kit determines the suitability of area streams, rivers and lakes for fish habitat by accurately indicating minor changes in water quality.

The kit was given to the ministry in appreciation for its help to the club with projects to improve local fish habitat.

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Wired for sound

Lake trout in northern Ontario's Larder Lake got a lot of air time last fall, but the audience was confined to a few interested anglers and Ministry of Natural Resources staff.

The Larder Lake trout were equipped with tiny transmitters -- each emitting its own unique signal -- enabling both staff and volunteers to follow their movements.

Hooked up to a hydrophone on the side of the work boats, the sound was amplified a million times until it could be detected by the human ear. The louder the signal, the closer the boats were to the broadcasting fish.

"Anglers may still catch some of these lake trout," says Brian Renaud, MNR's fisheries management officer in Kirkland Lake district. "Battery life is short, so most of the transmitters are probably lost by now. But the fish may have a small scar just below the dorsal fin." Renaud says he would like to see all of these fish that anglers catch.

The ministry plans to put transmitters on seven more large lake trout in Larder Lake this summer.

It's Harwood hatchery in '86

Beginning in the fall of 1986, some new residents are headed for Lake Ontario.

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That is when the Ministry of Natural Resources expects about 80,000 yearling fish -- mostly brown trout and lake trout -- to be available for stocking as a result of the new Harwood fish hatchery.

The hatchery is being built on the eastern boundary of the Village of Harwood, north of Cobourg adjoining Rice Lake, and should provide as much as \$4-million in increased fishing opportunities.

Three rights for wrongs

Keen-eyed anglers will want to be aware of three changes in this year's Ontario Fishing Summary:

- Page 18 -- the summary for Grey County fish sanctuaries should read: "The tributaries of the Bighead River" (not the Bighead River and tributaries).
 - Page 23 -- under Northumberland County, for stream mouths having an all-year open season on rainbow and brown trout, the Summary should read: "Ganaraska River -- in the Town of Port Hope from CNR bridge to Lake Ontario (not from Highway 2).
 - Page 26 -- Division 27. Walleye (yellow pickerel) and pike seasons on Lake Nipissing will open a day earlier than scheduled this spring. Pickerel season opens on Saturday, May 18 as does the season for pike.
-

Deer no worse for winter

This past winter was just too much! But a plentiful food supply got Ontario's deer over the worst of it.

"Lots of acorns and browse saw them through," says Howard Smith, deer program co-ordinator for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

At Ontario's largest deer yard -- a 500-square-kilometre area near Loring, where herds gather for food and shelter -- there were 14,000 deer this winter, compared with about 9,000 in 1984.

This year, the provincial and federal governments allocated more than \$300,000 for Ontario's winter deer program, hiring about 55 laid-off workers to clear trails, cut browse and other related tasks.

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RESOURCES REPORT

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May 1985

ONTARIO BIOLOGISTS CONDUCT HANDS-ON POLAR BEAR STUDY

by Alison Butlin
Ministry of Natural Resources

Most people wouldn't get near a polar bear with a 10-foot pole -- even if the pole was equipped with a knock-out shot.

But for George Kolenosky, a biologist with the Ministry of Natural Resources, such close-range encounters are just part of a day's work.

Kolenosky spent 46 days between July and October 1984 -- along with several other biologists and resource technicians from the ministry's Moosonee district and Northern region -- studying polar bears along northern Ontario's Hudson Bay coastline.

After shooting the animals with a tranquilizer dart from a helicopter, they approached the bears on foot to examine their health and size, fit them with numbered eartags, tattoo their lips, and paint an identifying number on their backs. They also placed collars with radio transmitters on several adult females.

In all, 200 bears were examined -- 50 more than the target number.

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The work was the start of a three-year capture and tagging study of polar bears in the Hudson Bay basin. The project is designed to help determine the size and distribution of the polar bear population in Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

Kolenosky and other ministry staff have noted through aerial surveys that there have been large annual fluctuations in Ontario's bear population over the last 20 years.

This information suggests that bears have been travelling between provinces.

"We are trying to find out if certain sub-populations of bears are being over-harvested because of their movement patterns," said Kolenosky. "Our research will help us to understand where the problem areas are in Ontario and help us better protect the bears."

The status of polar bears in Canada is carefully monitored by the senior wildlife personnel on the Polar Bear Administrative Committee and the field biologists who conduct research under the jurisdiction of the Polar Bear Technical Committee. Since Canada is home to more than half of the world's polar bears, setting reliable quotas is a major concern of biologists and naturalists alike.

Kolenosky believes that there are more bears in Ontario than originally thought. "During our annual fall survey, we saw three or four bears for every one we tagged. There must be about 600 to 800 of them in the area we studied."

A total of 107 of the 200 bears captured were seen again at least once. Although it is still too early to draw conclusions about the distributions of their sub-populations, the researchers gleaned some interesting information about the bears' travel habits.

They learned that the bears really get around. In one day, an adult female travelled 15 kilometres. In one month, a young male travelled 238 kilometres along the Hudson Bay coastline.

But the bear with the most perseverance -- a young female tagged northwest of Fort Severn, Ontario -- was resighted three weeks later in Churchill, Manitoba -- 480 kilometres away.

Six other bears originally tagged near Churchill were spotted in Ontario -- answering the question of whether polar bears travel between the two provinces.

The radio transmitter collars Kolenosky attached to 28 female polar bears provided even more evidence of the extraordinary distances covered by these animals. Some females have been monitored as far as 350 kilometres northeast of Polar Bear Provincial Park.

"They are moving out much further than we thought," said Kolenosky.

The bears had varying reactions to the approach of the helicopter.

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Most made a speedy retreat. Some crouched in the snow with their paws over their eyes -- something that Kolenosky says "seemed a little incongruous in a 600-kilogram polar bear." Others planted themselves on one spot in defiance.

Throughout the study, the researchers placed the bears' welfare first. The Ontario researchers were trained for three weeks at the beginning of the project by Dennis Andriashek of the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Care was the watchword, from the time the bears were captured until they were released. After the tranquillizer had taken effect, each animal's respiration and heart rate were checked and their eyes were lubricated and covered with a soft rag.

When the processing -- weighing, tooth examination and extraction to determine age, and tagging -- was complete, the bears were revived with the injection of another drug.

The bears were not left alone until they could at least raise their heads. Some bears began walking away before the helicopter was started. The locations of most bears were checked the next day to ensure they had not suffered any latent effects.

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Co-operation was an important factor in the research. The assistance provided by the wildlife staff of MNR's northern regional office and the Moosonee district offices -- especially conservation officer Ralph Wheeler, technician Steve Anderson and fish and wildlife supervisor Bill Lannin -- provided "the enthusiasm and interest a project of this kind needs," said Kolenosky.

Follow-up research -- which includes tracking the radio-collared bears by aircraft -- should provide concrete evidence of the size and distribution of Ontario's polar bear population. "This summer really laid the groundwork for the next two years," said Kolenosky.

"It will help us to better manage and protect Ontario's polar bears in the future."

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EDITORS: Photographs are available. Please call
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RESOURCES REPORT

24N
26
May 1985

PROVINCIAL PARKS -- READY TO WELCOME YOU

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Ontario's provincial parks have always rated highly with people who like to get away from it all.

Even if you have been visiting them for years, there are always new things to do and see. And, best of all, it is up to you whether you "rough it" or not.

"An added convenience this year is the fact that provincial parks are following the practice of most hotels and motels by accepting credit cards to pay for your camping fees, to guarantee campsites, or to purchase an annual vehicle permit," Natural Resources Minister Michael Harris said.

Ontario's provincial parks open doors to a number of outdoor experiences in places like Grundy Lake -- off Highway 69 south of Sudbury, and Turkey Point -- on the north shore of Lake Erie south of Simcoe.

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In fact, Grundy Lake Provincial Park has more than 500 campsites in a wilderness setting for both tents and trailers. You can fish for yellow pickerel and bass, go for a swim, relax on a sandy beach, go for a hike, or paddle a canoe through lakes only a short distance from routes used by Samuel de Champlain, Etienne Brule and Alexander MacKenzie.

Turkey Point Provincial Park with its 195 campsites -- 40 of which will accommodate trailers -- has a large playing field, a baseball diamond and a basketball court. In addition, visitors can walk or cycle on park roads, go swimming -- the beach at Turkey Point is one of the best on Lake Erie -- fish for pike, perch and largemouth bass in Long Point Bay, or even have a game of golf at the park's nine-hole golf course.

A short distance away are two MNR facilities that park visitors may wish to visit -- St. Williams forest station and Normandale fish hatchery.

Tours will be held every Thursday at 2 p.m. at St. Williams, the oldest tree nursery in Canada. Visitors will see an audio-visual presentation in the visitor centre-museum, and a bus or tractor and wagon will take them on a riding tour through the nursery.

At the Normandale Fish Culture Station, where rainbow trout are raised for stocking purposes, a self-guiding tour of the hatchery operation is planned for the summer months.

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There is no charge for either tour, but before starting out you should contact either St. Williams or Normandale, in case of an unavoidable cancellation.

For Normandale call the manager, Bill Hooper at (519) 426-3142 and for St. Williams call the superintendent, Dolf Wynia at (519) 586-3576.

If you intend to camp at a provincial park, especially the popular ones in southern Ontario, it is wise to make a reservation early. Reservations are usually not needed in most provincial parks in northern Ontario. And during the fall, when there are fewer campers, reservations often are not needed in either northern or southern provincial parks.

The Barrie Travel Centre provides a taped vacancy report on southern Ontario parks during the busy season. You can call (416) 963-2992 -- 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

You can reserve by mail, in person, or simply by calling the park office. Some people find it convenient to call the park directly, and pay their camping fees when they arrive. Most parks will take a call right up until the day you wish to camp. Mail-in applications must reach the park two weeks in advance, along with the camping fee and \$2 reservation fee. And remember the added convenience if you wish to use a credit card.

"To retain high-quality services, and to continue innovative programs such as the wilderness skills course at Frontenac Provincial Park, it has been necessary to increase our fees slightly during the peak season of June 7 to September 2," Mr. Harris says.

A campsite with electricity now costs \$8.75 a night -- up 25 cents from last year. A campground with a comfort station costs \$7.25 a night, while a campground without a comfort station costs \$6.75 a night -- both up 25 cents. Other camping fees have risen accordingly.

"Of course, this won't affect Ontario's senior citizens, who have free year-round day use of provincial parks and free camping privileges, except on Friday and Saturday nights during busy months," Mr. Harris added.

Seventy-five new provincial parks are being planned to meet the ever increasing demands of both car and wilderness campers as well as day users. Since a number of these parks are not yet officially open, it is best to check with the local office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, or the ministry's Public Information Centre in Toronto before setting out.

One of the new parks -- Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, located in northwestern Ontario between Red Lake and the Manitoba border -- is ideal for wilderness buffs.

Since there are no roads into the park, the only access is either by private fly-in services or by canoe. The ministry's Red Lake district office has maps of the park and access information for prospective visitors.

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Once you get there, there's lots to see and do in Woodland Caribou -- many small trout lakes, two major historical and recreational waterways as well as numerous other canoe routes, Indian pictographs, rugged bedrock outcrops, rocky cliffs and cascading waterfalls. The park gets its name from a herd of caribou that range nearby.

Another of the new parks -- Makobe-Grays Rivers in northeastern Ontario -- offers a combination of white water and lake canoeing, as well as tremendous opportunities for back country wilderness trips. For further information contact the ministry's office in Kirkland Lake or Temagami.

But as Ontario's provincial park managers well realize, wilderness camping and white water canoeing are not for everyone. Other provincial parks offer guided nature walks, picnicking, swimming and film shows under the stars.

If you would like to know more about camping, rates or Ontario provincial parks in general, be sure to ask for the 1985 Provincial Parks Guide. You can call MNR district offices for information on local provincial parks, telephone for parks information at (416) 965-3081, or drop by the Ministry of Natural Resources Public Information Centre, Room 1640, just inside the north door of the Whitney Block at 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto.

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RESOURCES REPORT

June 1985

NORTHERN PROVINCIAL PARKS -- TRIPS THROUGH TIME

Agawa Rock. Kakabeka Falls. Ouimet Canyon. The names evoke visions of exotic places half a world away.

It's true -- they are exotic, and beautiful, and wild. AND they are all in Ontario.

In fact, these are just three of the many provincial parks in northern Ontario where visitors can indulge a love of nature, a fondness for outdoor activities and a desire to learn more about the province's past.

Until recently, some of the features in these parks were difficult to reach. Visitors were often unaware of the significance of their surroundings. That's what has prompted several projects administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, and financed through the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The result: hiking trails, exhibits and special viewing areas, all designed to highlight some of the province's most breath-taking scenery -- and at the same time, ensure its protection.

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"Visitors can now catch a glimpse of some fascinating aspects of our province's natural and cultural history," says Natural Resources Minister Michael Harris. "And, when they get that glimpse, those areas, and in fact the entire province, will mean more to them."

Ouimet Canyon is a good example of this. Located about 30 kilometres northeast of Thunder Bay, it is one of Ontario's most outstanding natural attractions.

Hiking trails now give visitors an excellent view of one of "our grandest canyons." Displays and exhibits explain its unusual features: the lichen clinging to the steep sides of the canyon, the dense sub-Arctic vegetation on the canyon floor, and the distinctive rock formations.

Because it is an unparalleled example of Ontario's natural heritage, Ouimet Canyon has been designated a nature reserve. So, although visitors are welcome to hike and even bring a picnic, they are asked to stay on the trails and in the designated use areas.

By contrast, Marten River Provincial Park, about 40 kilometres northwest of North Bay, offers a wide range of activities, from camping and fishing in summer, to cross-country skiing in winter.

But its main attraction is a logging camp that the Ministry of Natural Resources has carefully reconstructed. The camp is a reminder of the time, more than 50 years ago, when the Marten River area played an important role in Ontario's logging industry.

Further evidence of our pioneering spirit can be found at Kakabeka Falls, just west of Thunder Bay.

Here, from special viewing platforms visitors can imagine how the falls must have looked to the voyageurs who had to portage around them as they headed west more than 200 years ago.

Those who want to delve deeper into Ontario's past should take a trip to Lake Superior Provincial Park.

In addition to camping, canoeing, backpacking and swimming, the park -- on the east shore of the lake north of Sault Ste. Marie -- features a hiking trail that leads to Agawa Rock. There, generations of Algonkian-speaking Indians used red ochre to paint dramatic images of historical events and figures from mythology. Displays explain the rock paintings and provide insight into the lives of these first Ontarians more than 300 years ago.

Many other fine examples of Indian rock painting can be found in Quetico Provincial Park, near Atikokan.

At the park, a new visitor centre is under construction. When completed, it will house various displays, exhibits and films describing the unmatched features of this wilderness park, and its more than 1,500 kilometres of canoe routes.

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People who wish to explore the park in this way will find forests, lakes and rock formations that have remained virtually unchanged for decades. Experienced staff are on hand at all of the park's entry stations to provide canoeists with the information they need.

More projects are being planned to highlight the natural and cultural features in Ontario's provincial parks. The Minister of Northern Affairs, Leo Bernier, expects that these projects will give a big boost to the province's tourism industry.

"Our northern parks will interest people from all over North America," he says. "They're unusual, they're well-preserved, and they have important stories to tell about the history of this province."

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RESOURCES REPORT

June 1985

LOGGING HISTORY, LUMBERJACKS COME TO LIFE IN ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL PARKS

At Marten River Provincial Park, it's still possible to recapture the past.

"If you want to get a feel for what it was like in Ontario during the heyday of the lumberjack, Marten River Provincial Park northwest of North Bay is a good place to start," says Natural Resources Minister Michael Harris.

In 1981, a turn-of-the-century logging camp was re-constructed in the park to give visitors a glimpse into the living conditions of northern Ontario lumberjacks some 80 years ago.

Development of the camp -- which this year became the setting for a new film called The Winter Camp -- had been a longstanding dream of Gene McIsaac, Marten River's superintendent for the past 12 years. McIsaac's dream became a reality when the Ministry of Northern Affairs agreed to fund the project and the film.

In addition to being an important member of the team which oversaw the development of the site, Gene has a starring role in the film -- The Winter Camp -- just released by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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The logging camp consists of several buildings: a camp office, bunkhouse, cookery, meathouse, blacksmith shop and stable. The buildings were constructed by several men -- all hand-picked by McIsaac because of their extensive logging experience.

McIsaac, who himself began working at the age of 12 in a South River Ontario sawmill, points out that some of the camp's buildings had to be scaled down slightly. His cookery, for example, seats about 20 -- about one-fifth of actual size. However, the workmen used strictly authentic construction methods.

"Although we felled the trees with chainsaws, we used crosscut saws to produce the ragged outside ends on the logs we'd selected for constructing the buildings. We covered the gaps with tar paper, the way they used to, and we fashioned wooden hinges for all the doors," he says.

"We received donations of equipment and historical artifacts from all over the province. People were very generous when they learned what we were doing."

McIsaac's quiet, gentle manner doesn't hide his fierce enthusiasm for the park and the logging camp, and his hopes to expand the exhibit. In the near future, for example, a small orientation centre housing displays and a theatre will be completed.

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Marten River Provincial Park's excellent fishing and scenic campsites -- in addition to its picturesque location on the river from which it gets its name -- draw thousands of campers and visitors every year. With the added dimension of an authentic logging camp and museum, McIsaac expects its popularity to increase significantly.

Marten River is not the only Ontario provincial park to offer a view of the province's logging history.

At Algonquin Provincial Park, there's a Pioneer Logging Exhibit near the East Gate that deals quite comprehensively with the history of logging in the park, and with the area's history in general.

Ron Tozer, the park naturalist at Algonquin, is enthusiastic about the restored log house at Basin Depot which joined the list of Algonquin's attractions last June. The house was built in the 1890s as a hospital to care for the lumberjacks who had contracted diphtheria in the epidemic of 1892. It was converted to a harness shop when logging was at its peak, and still later became a schoolhouse for the children of families who settled in the area. In the 1930s, as recreation became an increasingly popular pastime in the park, the old house became a summer cottage.

"Today, the old house stands as a restored symbol of Ontario's forest heritage, a memorial to the settlers and loggers and vacationers and others who came to the Algonquin area and helped make it grow and prosper," Tozer says.

Logging has a long, rich history in the park, and a slide show at the Pioneer Logging Exhibit tells the Algonquin logging story -- past and present.

For those who want to venture a little farther north, there's Wakami Lake Provincial Park, where visitors get the impression they've walked back 100 years into the past.

In the park -- a short drive southeast of Chapleau -- you can amble along a forested path from display to display in a true outdoor museum. Climb aboard the old-time Alligator, and from the cab pretend to be the driver who piloted this push-pull tug boat in bygone days.

The display of historical equipment tells the story of how logging started in the Chapleau area back in the 1880s, when the construction of the transcontinental railroad through the area created a high demand for railway ties.

For history buffs of all ages, many of Ontario's provincial parks can unlock the imagination and send it soaring back in time -- back to the days when Ontario was young, and when the only sounds that broke the forest's silence were those of the broadaxe, the cross cut saw and the horse-drawn sleigh. For more information, call the Ministry of Natural Resources collect at (416) 965-3081. For further information about the film -- The Winter Camp -- call the film librarian at (416) 963-1325.

- 30 -

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RESOURCES REPORT

July 1985

HOW TO COPE WITH THE WOODS

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

As anyone who has flown over northern Ontario, or vacationed in areas like Muskoka or Haliburton well knows, despite its undisputed beauty there's a near unceasing uniformity to the kilometre upon kilometre of thickly wooded terrain spread out below like an endless carpet.

In fact, the dense forest, intermittently broken by crystal clear lakes and winding rivers, ancient boulders and rock outcroppings, resembles a vast, unchanging picture frozen on a giant outdoor screen.

This rugged landscape can turn from a thrilling challenger to an ominous foe for someone who is lost and has little or no knowledge of the wilderness.

Fortunately, most people who lose their way in the woods usually come across a bush road or some other link to civilization and find their way back.

While the best plan is not to get lost in the first place, that's sometimes easier said than done. One wrong turn can lead to another, and this can lead to total confusion.

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Hunters who concentrate on tracking wounded game can lose track of their surroundings. Birders on the trail of a rare warbler can find themselves turned around. As a precaution, it's wise to make a note of landmarks as you go along.

And watch that you don't wind up walking in a circle. Walk toward an object that's directly ahead of you, choose an object beyond it -- and so on.

You can never be too careful, even on a short walk in familiar woods. It's a good idea to let someone know where you are going and approximately when you intend to return. Then, if you fail to come back at the appointed time, your friends can start looking for you. And make sure you tell them if there's a change of plans.

Joel Cooper, the Ministry of Natural Resources parks planner for Wawa District, remembers one August when a lot of time and effort went into finding 10 canoeists from a boys' camp who were "lost" on the Pukaskwa River in northeastern Ontario.

"Before beginning the 96 kilometre trip to the river mouth at Lake Superior, they arranged for a local commercial fisherman to meet them there on a pre-arranged date," Cooper said. "When they didn't arrive, he reported them missing. Turns out they had altered their plans, and finally showed up more than a day late."

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Even when you're careful not to get lost, it can sometimes happen. And it can be a stressful, frightening experience.

Remember first of all that you can cope with the woods. Before you head out, read something about survival. And to coin the Boy Scout motto -- "Be prepared!"

Always carry a compass -- and trust it. Sometimes sportsmen and other travellers think they know the way and strike out on their own, only to regret it later. And obtain a good topographical map of the area. A map and compass can be your pass keys out of the wilderness. If you are unfamiliar with them, you should get instruction from someone skilled in compass use and map reading before your trip begins.

If you do lose your way, don't panic. Panic is the enemy of reason. Make a special effort to remain calm. Let logic be your guide and start making plans on how to get back to your home or campground.

The Ministry of Natural Resources publishes a pocket-size card called How to Survive in the Woods that briefly offers basic survival tips. You can get a copy by writing:

Public Information Centre
Ministry of Natural Resources
Whitney Block, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3

more...

In a nutshell, though, your best advice is to remember that if you are lost, the trees that seem to be closing in on you will supply shelter, fuel and food until you are rescued.

Some other quick tips:

- Don't wander aimlessly; this will only waste your strength.
- Stay in the open where you can be seen by searching aircraft.
- Always carry water-proof matches, sheath knife, snare wire, fish hooks and line, compass, map, pocket first aid kit, and raisins or sweet chocolate. Ration your food.
- Build three fires in a triangle -- three of anything is a distress signal. Add green boughs to pour smoke into the sky. But be careful -- make sure you're not risking a forest fire that could trap you.

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RESOURCES REPORT

July 1985

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

In fox dens and fish ponds, spruce bogs, space, and forest fire records, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources scientific specialists confront the unknown and the obscure in their search for new -- and quite possibly -- revolutionary answers.

The quest for knowledge has gone on at MNR for the past 100 years -- and today it is stronger than ever.

And today's research scientists face new challenges. Science and technology are more complicated. Project goals are now more strictly defined, co-ordination of work with outside agencies is being encouraged, and there is more emphasis on productivity. Resource specialists, using ingenuity and brains, have kept standards high and continue to achieve some spectacular results.

Wildlife rabies is a problem that ministry specialists have been working on for 20 years. Now, they may be on the verge of providing the world with a way to limit the spread of a disease that goes back before the birth of Christ.

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Last September, thousands of fox baits developed by MNR -- sponge cubes coated with wax and fat in small plastic bags -- were dropped from a low-flying aircraft over a rural southwestern Ontario test area, with excellent results. Instead of vaccine, a harmless chemical marker was put in the bait. Sixty-four per cent of the 86 foxes later trapped and examined showed evidence they had eaten the bait.

In the next test, researchers plan to use live vaccine.

The vaccine will be absorbed into the animal's system directly from contact with the mouth area, and is 50 to 100 per cent effective in immunizing against rabies in foxes. If successful, the immunization system could all but stop rabies outbreaks here. And later it could be exported to Africa and India where the disease is also a problem in rural areas.

Similar success with experimentation has also helped fisheries, where during the 1940s and '50s there was concern over the rapidly declining fish populations in the Great Lakes. In the case of lake trout, the most immediate threat was the sea lamprey -- an eel-like creature that attaches itself to lake trout and related species, causing scarring and usually death.

An ironic twist to the lamprey disaster is that, out of it, a new fish was created. The splake -- a cross between speckled or brook trout and lake trout -- was developed by MNR fish biologists specifically to thwart the predatory sea lamprey. From the initial program, two useful contributions to the fishery of Ontario have developed.

First, the "F1" or first generation hybrid splake has been found to perform more effectively than either of its parents in small lakes where there is no expectation of rehabilitating naturally reproducing populations of either brook or lake trout. Second, a further refinement of the splake, the lake trout backcross, specially selected for the proper mix of characteristics from its parents is being stocked in Georgian Bay. The success of the backcross as a self-sustaining, deepwater alternative to lake trout is still being determined, but encouraging signs of natural reproduction have been noted this year.

Research and development is also proving to be a boon to Ontario's forestry industry. At the northern forest technology development unit in Timmins, specialists are trying to accelerate production of genetically superior strains of black spruce and jack pine -- the backbone of the pulp and paper industry. By establishing seed farms and greenhouses that act as "breeding halls," specialists anticipate that superior trees will be induced to flower early under year-round continuous exposure to light and heat.

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These seedlings will also be better prepared to withstand the winter, thanks to an extended greenhouse growing project conducted at the Ontario Tree Improvement and Forest Biomass Institute north of Toronto.

The research proved that the number of spruce and pine seedlings lost or damaged by frost could be reduced by leaving them in the greenhouse six to eight weeks longer. This also created a larger number of healthier trees.

Back in northern Ontario, specialists are using a ditching machine to drain some 400 hectares of peatland east of Cochrane. By removing some of the moisture on this rich growing site, they hope to accelerate the growth of the new forest which is being planted there. Normally, a spruce forest takes 80 to 100 years to mature.

When it comes to ensuring the future of our forests, fire is a major threat. Computers are firmly established at Ontario's Aviation and Fire Management Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, helping managers to be better prepared to fight fires, or sometimes even helping to prevent fires before they start.

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And forest fire specialists at the Timmins regional fire centre use a computer to predict fire hazards. The computer contains all historical weather and fire occurrence data for the region around Timmins. Within microseconds, the computer can list fire hazard areas, the probability of fire occurring and fire locations.

Over the next three years, all six regional fire centres in Ontario will be using this type of system.

With computer technology, one group of ministry specialists has even found a way to produce treasure maps -- and delegations from around the world are coming to Ontario to find out how they did it. Specialists at the ministry's Ontario Centre for Remote Sensing (OCRS) can tell a computer to pick out radiation patterns given off by the earth and recorded by satellites. These radiation levels have been sorted into color-coded groups representing vegetation, water or terrain.

From this, the Centre can produce detailed 16-color computer maps that can depict a range of resources -- from peat bogs and forests to geological fault lines and areas subject to landslide. The maps show geological formations which could indicate the presence of oil or specific minerals. These maps -- which can be produced quickly on a large scale -- are already much in demand by government and private industry alike.

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The work done by MNR scientific specialists is essential to the management of Ontario's resources. It enables Ontario to solve resource problems, increase resource productivity and renew renewable resources. It helps the province maintain its competitive edge against international resource producers.

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RESOURCES REPORT

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July 1985

NATURE RESERVES -- A LESSON IN NATURAL HISTORY

Mention Ontario provincial parks, and most people think of Algonquin or Sandbanks or The Pinery.

Few people think of Potholes, Ouimet Canyon, Trillium Woods or Ojibway Prairie. But they should, because those parks have something special to offer.

They are classified as nature reserves. That means they are protected carefully by the Ministry of Natural Resources to preserve their distinctive wildlife, vegetation and landforms, and to provide opportunities for scientific study, and education nature appreciation.

There are currently 65 nature reserve parks in Ontario, as well as nature reserve zones designated in approved management plans in other provincial parks. This system of nature reserve parks and nature reserve zones comprises more than 200,000 hectares of exceptional natural areas representing many aspects of Ontario's natural diversity.

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"Nature reserves feature important aspects of our province's natural history," says Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio. "Because many of the province's nature reserves are so isolated or environmentally sensitive, the ministry takes special care to ensure their special features aren't disturbed."

At Ouimet Canyon, Potholes and Trillium Woods, for example, trails are provided so that people can see the significant features of the parks without endangering them.

Although camping is not permitted in these nature reserves, they are all close to campgrounds and to cities or towns where accommodation can be found. So they are ideal destinations for day trips.

For instance, a short drive east from Thunder Bay takes you to Ouimet Canyon. There, at the end of the hiking trail is a breath-taking view. The canyon is 100 metres deep, and supports remnants of sub-Arctic vegetation on its floor.

Another unusual sight awaits visitors to Potholes Provincial Nature Reserve, which is east of Lake Superior between Wawa and Chapleau. It is also close to The Shoals and Lake Superior provincial parks.

At Potholes, visitors can see the legacy of the glaciers. As they melted 9,000 years ago, their water scoured a series of potholes and channels out of the rock in the area. These potholes remain water-filled to this day.

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In the southern part of the province near St. Thomas, is Trillium Woods Provincial Nature Reserve. It attracts a lot of visitors in May when its many unusual types of trillium are in bloom. Rondeau, Ipperwash or The Pinery provincial parks are less than two hours' drive away.

For just a picnic and a swim, Port Bruce Provincial Park is just a short distance from Trillium Woods.

Also in southern Ontario, just outside Windsor, is the Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. It is the largest protected remnant of native prairie in the province.

Because of the sensitivity of the area, no trails have been developed. But those who want to see the beautiful and diverse vegetation of this area can visit Ojibway Park, which is adjacent to the reserve and owned by the City of Windsor.

There, an interpretive centre explains the significance of this prairie landscape. The best time to visit is in late summer when the vegetation -- with many showy prairie plants -- is in full bloom.

Two nearby provincial parks -- Holiday Beach and Wheatley -- offer overnight camping.

"Each nature reserve has a management plan based on the environmental values the reserve was established to represent," Mr. Kerrio said.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RESOURCES REPORT

August 1985

MUSKELLUNGE -- ONTARIO'S ELUSIVE FRESHWATER GIANT

by Nancy Rahtz
Ministry of Natural Resources

If your idea of fishing is leaning back, dropping a line in the water and enjoying your catch for dinner that night, don't go after muskellunge. Muskie fishing is hard work. It requires patience, stamina and a lot more determination than most of us are prepared to give. Even experienced muskellunge fishermen can take up to 100 hours to hook a muskie, and some anglers have been known to spend years going back for one in particular that got away.

Muskie fishermen readily acknowledge that their fascination for this elusive fish borders on fanatical. Before they even hook one, they keep track of the number of times their lures are hit or followed. When they finally land one, they usually put it back. They keep only exceptionally-sized fish, and only for mounting.

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Why do muskie anglers put so much time, effort and hard work into hooking a fish they won't eat and likely won't even keep? Maybe it's the stories of the 50- and 60-pounders that were common 30 years ago, or the prospect of breaking the world's record of almost 70 pounds set in 1957. Whatever the reason, the muskie angler will tell you that when you do hook one of these freshwater giants, there's nothing like it. To these fishermen, landing a muskellunge is the ultimate fishing challenge.

Muskellunge are members of the pike family and, next to the sturgeon, are Canada's largest freshwater fish. The name muskellunge is thought to be derived from an Indian word meaning "deformed pike".

But unlike the pike, which is found around the world, the muskellunge is restricted to eastern North America -- from Lake Champlain, the St. Lawrence River and the Great Lakes basin, north to Lake Abitibi, west to Lake of the Woods and south to Iowa and Illinois.

Ontario alone contains an estimated 300 to 500 muskie lakes and rivers. The best-known muskie fisheries in Ontario are found in the St. Lawrence River, parts of Georgian Bay, the Kawartha Lakes, and Eagle and Wabigoon Lakes in northwestern Ontario. The standing world's record for muskellunge came out of the St. Lawrence River in 1957, weighing in at 69.9 pounds.

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Slow, sedentary fish by nature, muskies like to lurk in weedy beds close to shore, where there is ample food to satisfy their enormous appetites. Their fierce reputation is due in part to their size, as well as to their long, fang-like teeth and their tendency when hooked to fight on the surface.

But despite their reputation as big fish, the fact is that large, trophy-size muskellunge are now rare in Canada, and fish approaching world-record size have not been seen for over 20 years.

What is happening to the muskellunge? Do world-record sizes still exist? Are they giving way to fishing pressure? How long does it take to grow a 50- to 60-pound muskie? These and other questions are being looked at by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in an effort to better understand what is needed to maintain, and improve, the quality and quantity of Ontario's muskellunge population.

The first step has been establishing criteria for study, says MNR fisheries scientist Dr. John Casselman. "We have been reviewing the muskellunge situation for some time," says Casselman. "In 1982, the ministry formed a committee to produce a prioritized list of research needs for the species. Since the list was developed, several research studies have been initiated that pertain directly to muskie populations."

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The committee found that a survey of anglers, fishery workers and biologists showed unanimous agreement on key areas needing study. One of the most important priorities for all groups was the identification and protection of muskie spawning and nursery area requirements -- with the goal of starting programs of habitat improvement.

Most groups did not consider fish culture to be high on the list, but signs of self-reproduction in stocked muskie populations have since prompted the ministry to take another look at the importance and implications of stocking muskellunge.

Perhaps the biggest breakthrough in muskellunge research has been in determining just how long it takes for this fish to reach trophy size. While it was once believed that it took only 12 to 18 years, it has now been established that it actually takes from 20 to 30 years.

"The implications of this are enormous," says Casselman. "Rebuilding the quality of the muskie fishery to where it was in the 1950s will take longer than we thought, and will require extra diligence on the part of every muskie fisherman. To get a 30-year-old fish, they've got to put back the 20-year-old ones."

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The more accurate method of aging muskellunge and pike was developed by Casselman in the 1960s. The usual method uses a fish's scales to determine age. Casselman discovered that on older or slow-growing pike and muskies, the markings on the cleithrum bone -- counted in much the same way as rings on a tree stump -- were more accurate and reliable in determining age than the scale method. The cleithrum is a large, flat, crescent-shaped bone lying immediately behind the gill opening on each side of the fish, supporting the front fins.

Dr. Ed Crossman of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) has worked closely with Casselman for over six years on what they call The Cleithrum Project. "After establishing that the cleithrum bone is a reliable indicator of age, as well as other biological data, we decided to create a research repository at the museum for muskie and pike cleithra," says Crossman. The joint study was initiated by MNR and the ROM in 1979.

With some funding from the museum and the Muskies Canada organization, and the help of volunteers, Crossman and Casselman asked anglers and taxidermists in Canada and the U.S. to clean and send in cleithrum bones from muskies and pike. "We can find out more than age from this bone. It also allows us to determine the rate of growth of the fish, size at different ages, sex based on growth rate and whether the fish is a muskie or a muskie/pike hybrid," Crossman says.

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Kits containing special mailing envelopes and illustrated instructions for bone removal have been sent to muskie clubs and hundreds of taxidermists across North America. A cleithrum bone can easily be removed by a taxidermist without destroying the appearance of the fish for mounting. The senders are also requested to provide specific information such as length, girth, sex, date and location of capture.

"We acknowledge receipt of the bones and always notify the senders of the age of their fish," says Crossman. "The response has been excellent although we're still getting far more from Wisconsin than we are from Ontario. We'd like to see more Ontario taxidermists and anglers getting involved in the project." Crossman says interest in the project has been expressed from as far away as Europe and England.

A museum volunteer is working on a computer program for the Cleithrum Project data, which will summarize biological information for muskellunge populations across North America.

"We're finding out a lot of things about muskie distribution that we didn't know before," says Crossman. "The information will be valuable in determining the direction of muskellunge management programs in the future."

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Ironically, Casselman says one of the biggest things muskies have going for them are the muskie fishermen themselves. "Through their support of the Cleithrum Project, as well as their involvement in other surveys and projects, organizations like Muskies Canada and the U.S. Muskies Inc. have been invaluable sources of data for us," he says. "There is no doubt that muskie fishermen are a special breed. They have a genuine concern for the species and will assist in whatever way they can to maintain muskellunge populations."

This concern and co-operation is also evident in the concept of catch and release promoted by muskie fishermen everywhere. Although the muskellunge is a good eating fish, most muskie anglers would rather release a fish than eat it. They keep only trophy-size fish, usually at least 40 inches in length, that they wish to mount. "Catch and release is the best method of reducing pressure on muskie populations, without curtailing angling opportunities," says Casselman.

That's good news for the next generation of muskie fishermen who otherwise might eventually come to regard those stories of 70-pounders as being closer to fiction than fact.

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RESOURCES REPORT

September 1985

PROVINCIAL PARKS SHOW AUTUMN AT ITS BEST

Autumn is show time in Ontario's provincial parks. It is a spectacle of color captured forever in the art of the ancient Indians, the Group of Seven, and contemporary wildlife painters like Robert Bateman. And it is an ideal time for a vacation away from it all.

For many people in Ontario, weekend getaways end on Labour Day when the cottage is boarded up and camping equipment is packed away.

Thanks to the versatility of Ontario provincial parks, it does not have to be that way. Visitors are welcome year-round, but especially during the splendor of fall.

"There are parks in this province to please everyone," says Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio. "Some offer hiking trails for people who want to make a day trip to see the autumn leaves. Others offer canoeing, and fall camping."

And some, like Killarney Provincial Park, offer all of these things.

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Killarney, on the north shore of Georgian Bay, has been called the "crown jewel" of the Ontario parks system. Its rugged beauty is the subject of many paintings by the Group of Seven, and was particularly special to one of its members, A.Y. Jackson -- so special that Jackson prompted the government to protect the area and turn it into the provincial park it is today.

There is hiking and canoeing through some of the most breath-taking fall scenery in the province. Robert Bateman has been painting the wildlife of this magnificent landscape for the last 20 years.

Camping is allowed at Killarney throughout the fall, however services are not provided. Or for those who would like to make a day trip to the park, overnight accommodation can be found in the village of Killarney or nearby Sudbury.

Another wilderness park that attracts visitors year-round is Quetico, between Atikokan and Thunder Bay.

There are both car-camping and day use areas at French Lake. Several short hiking trails highlight some of the interesting features of the park.

Quetico's principal attraction however, is the vast system of waterways -- more than 1,500 kilometres of canoe routes encompassing everything from quiet rivers to rapids and waterfalls to expansive lakes. Wilderness camping is available throughout the park.

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Following these canoe routes will bring you upon some of the mysterious ancient pictographs made by the first Ontarians. Along cliff faces, reddish-brown drawings of men, caribou, bears and turtles offer an intriguing record of the spiritual beliefs and mythology of the Indians who inhabited Quetico centuries ago.

For those who want a more relaxed excursion for a few days, there is always the train trip through part of Lake Superior Provincial Park.

The park is on the eastern shore of the lake, north of Sault Ste. Marie, and the Algoma Central train travels daily between the Sault and Agawa Canyon until Thanksgiving and on weekends during the fall and winter.

You may experience déjà vu as you pass through certain points along the train's scenic route. In 1918, some members of the then-unformed Group of Seven took this train on a painting expedition and produced some of the most famous paintings of their time.

But there are many other ways to see Lake Superior Provincial Park. Highway 17 runs all the way through it making the many hiking trails and canoe routes more easily accessible.

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Farther south, on the Bruce Peninsula that separates Lake Huron from Georgian Bay, is Cypress Lake Provincial Park. It is on the Bruce Trail, and offers some of the best hiking in the province. There are short trails suitable for one-day visitors, as well as longer trails for serious hikers.

Long hiking trails, and even longer canoe routes, can also be found in Ontario's oldest provincial park, Algonquin.

Picnic areas are provided, and accommodation is plentiful at the lodges in the park or in the nearby Huntsville area if you want to stay overnight. Some autumn camping sites are also provided within the park as well as the many interior sites on the canoe routes.

Farther south again is Bronte Creek Provincial Park. It is just off the Queen Elizabeth Way between Hamilton and Toronto, so it is easily accessible from most cities in southern Ontario. It is open year-round for day use, offering everything from hiking trails to a children's farm.

And it would be a shame to miss Bon Echo Provincial Park -- the largest provincial park in eastern Ontario -- about 10 kilometres north of Cloyne. Its outstanding scenery makes it an ideal vacation spot for hikers, canoeists and naturalists. Its many campsites can be reached by canoe, or simply by driving, hiking or walking in.

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A highlight of the park is the fabled Mazinaw Rock. It is composed of billion-year-old molten rock that slowly became solidified, with the internal heat and pressure causing its surface to become banded. Pressures on the rock caused the west side to tilt and a series of earthquakes caused the east side to sink, creating a spectacular appearance. And to make that appearance even more dramatic, there are several Indian rock paintings on the face. Furthermore, from the viewing platforms above, one gets an unparalleled panorama of the park which is even more appealing with autumn colors.

These are just a few of the provincial parks that welcome autumn visitors. Some even sponsor special fall events, such as hay rides and hiking trips.

"We in Ontario are proud of our autumn landscape," says Mr. Kerrio. "Our parks give us a chance to re-discover it each year, and to attract fall visitors to our province too."

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Parks Information
TORONTO (416) 965-3081

RESOURCES REPORT

October 1985

WILDLIFE SHORTS

Eagles leave Early

Some folks flee the family nest at an early age, but they could never beat the record set by eight bald eagles near Kenora this summer. These early birds were removed from the tall white pines of Lake of the Woods at six to eight weeks of age to help repopulate areas where eagles are scarce.

For 27 years, Dr. Jim Grier, a zoology professor at North Dakota State University in Fargo, has pursued his own bald eagle studies in Ontario's northwestern region while supplying useful data to the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Six of the eaglets, accompanied by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Canadian Wildlife Service staff, were given a free ride by Air Canada to Long Point on Lake Erie -- a favorite bald eagle habitat in the early 1900s. The other two were flown to Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee, by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

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We hope that when the eagles mature, they'll help repopulate those habitats where eagles are now sparse. This American national symbol is an endangered species, both in our province and in the U.S. Northwestern Ontario has several hundred nesting pairs; about 60 pairs are on Lake of the Woods.

More peregrines for Toronto

Four young peregrine falcons released early in August from the clock tower of Upper Canada College in Toronto are expected to spend their winter down south, like many other high-rise urbanites.

Tall downtown office buildings -- the next best thing to natural cliffside nesting sites -- make the birds of prey feel right at home with plenty of opportunities to try out flying and swooping skills.

The four-week-old birds -- three males and one female -- from Canadian Wildlife Service breeding facilities at Camp Wainwright, Alberta, were sent to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as part of a provincial program to re-establish this endangered species.

"Fourteen peregrine falcons have been released in the province this year. Besides the four in Toronto, a total of 10 were released at Algonquin Provincial Park, Brockville and Arnprior," says Irene Bowman, the ministry's nongame program co-ordinator. "All told, 99 peregrines have been released in Ontario since 1977."

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More moose in Michigan

After more than 100 practically mooseless years, Michigan wildlife officials almost gave up hope -- until 29 arrived from Ontario.

Seventeen of 19 cow moose have borne 20 calves -- including three sets of twins -- since being rounded up with 10 bulls in mid-January from the interior of snow-covered Algonquin Provincial Park by Ontario and Michigan Natural Resources staff.

Animals chosen for the trip across the border were tranquillized, transported by helicopter in heavy slings to the base camp, examined, and then fitted with radio collars so they could be easily monitored in their new surroundings. With numerous half-tonne moose to contend with in the bitter cold and blowing snow, it was an arduous task.

Finally, the valuable cargo was placed in moose-proof crates and driven 966 kilometres non-stop by transport truck to the U.S. release site near Lake Michigamme.

It's hoped that the Algonquin moose will do their part to increase Michigan's Upper Peninsula moose population to 1,000 by the end of the century.

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Tracking Ontario's White-tailed Deer

Can you imagine walking 85 kilometres from your summer home to your winter home? Some of Ontario's white-tailed deer do, according to researchers with the Co-operative Deer Study.

The four-year study is being conducted by the Ministry of Natural Resources' wildlife branch, and its North Bay, Huronia, and Wingham districts, with help from projects supported by the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and the County of Simcoe.

Scientists are measuring deer activity, movements, survival and behavior with the help of the latest research technology and methods. Radio tracking or telemetry of wild deer, especially does, is at the heart of the study. It involves collaring the deer and monitoring the radio transmissions with mobile receivers.

Deer-managing efforts will benefit from information assessing winter feeding, survival and production, and the overall management of Ontario's white-tail population should improve as a result of the study.

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Outdoor Recreation Inquiries
TORONTO (416) 965-4251

RESOURCES REPORT

November 1985

SPORT GROUPS PROVE THEY CARE ABOUT WILDLIFE

Lew Brown of Burgessville, Ontario, has been a hunter and nature enthusiast for most of his 60 years.

During these years, he has seen a lot of changes in the outdoors he loves. He has seen wetlands drained, natural forests removed and recreational opportunities reduced as private land is posted against trespassing.

One thing he had never seen is a eastern bluebird, and that bothered him. He knew these colorful little birds were once a common and welcome sight across southern Ontario. But the spread of cities, modern farming methods and nesting competition from starlings -- which were introduced by people -- had combined to drastically reduce their numbers.

So Brown and his hunting club decided to do something about it. And the Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP) -- sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources -- helped them do it.

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The club members knew that special nesting boxes would be the best way to bring back the bluebirds. They applied for, and received, assistance through CWIP to make 1,000 bluebird box kits, and handed them out in September at the 1985 International Plowing Match, south of London, Ontario. That way they could publicize the plight of the birds and give rural residents an opportunity to get involved.

It also gave them a chance to chat with farmers and improve the image of hunters in an area where access to land for recreation has decreased.

The response at the plowing match was overwhelming.

"We couldn't give them away fast enough," says Brown. "Everyone asked for one, including the Minister of Natural Resources."

The club members also asked landowners to report any bluebird sightings so they can pass this information on to the ministry.

CWIP, created by the ministry last summer, allows interested groups and individuals to play an active role in wildlife management.

"CWIP gives volunteers a chance to improve conditions for wildlife directly, and to enhance recreational pursuits that depend on wildlife," says Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio. "It improves public knowledge and encourages stewardship -- something that is essential for wildlife management."

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Through CWIP, the ministry will help to fund the cost of materials and equipment for approved projects, and the volunteers provide the labor. MNR wildlife specialists gladly offer advice and expertise.

"We have found that people are eager to take part in wildlife management," says Laurel Whistance-Smith of the ministry's wildlife branch. "And we welcome this involvement because we cannot handle all the demands alone.

"Most Ontario hunters are very responsible. CWIP gives them an opportunity to demonstrate their responsibility and commitment to conserving our wildlife resource."

Hans Toby, president of the Timmins Golden Nugget Conservation Club, agrees.

"Hunters have an obligation to their sport," he says. "They gain from Ontario wildlife. CWIP projects allow them an opportunity to give something back, to help manage the resource."

His group recently received a CWIP grant for a project that helped educate hunters about wildlife management while improving their hunting skills.

In Aylmer District, the Oxford Sportsman's Club is receiving CWIP funds to rebuild part of a facility they use to raise pheasants. The group has raised pheasants and released them into the wild for the past several years.

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Of course, CWIP grants are not just for hunting clubs. In Chapleau, a boy scout troop received assistance to seed old roadways with clover to provide an early spring food source for grouse and black bears. And volunteers in Chatham built a special viewing stand so people can watch waterfowl without endangering the habitat.

Lew Brown and his fellow club members are already thinking ahead to next year's project. And they're still eager to hear reports from the farmers who took home their bluebird boxes. But even before those reports come in, they've pronounced the project a success.

After all, they've managed to interest a thousand people in the plight of the bluebird. "And at the very least," says Brown, "it will be an incentive for other groups to carry on what we have started."

Anyone interested in becoming involved in a project to help Ontario's wildlife should contact the nearest district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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RESOURCES REPORT

December 1985

GETTING INVOLVED, HOOK, LINE AND SINKER

By

Steve Wallace
Ministry of Natural Resources

For the past three years, the rivers and streams of Ontario have been jumping with something other than fish. Enthusiasts everywhere, fishing clubs, cottagers associations, school groups and tourist outfitters have been getting out and working to improve fisheries -- with a little help from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Back in 1982, the ministry started the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP). Obviously, it was just what the fishing public had been waiting for. It gave them a chance to pitch in and help manage the province's fishing resources.

That was three years ago. A lot has changed since then. In 1984 alone, CFIP participants hatched and raised more than five million walleye fry and fingerlings.

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Since the program started, almost 5.5 million walleye have been raised -- and that's just one species.

Over the same period, CFIP volunteers have improved almost six kilometres of streams, as well as creating more than 18,000 square metres of improved spawning areas for walleye and trout.

"The key to CFIP is helping people enjoy what they're doing, and making sure they get all the encouragement that they need," says Jerry Smitka, who was hired in 1982 as the CFIP community advisor.

The basic idea behind CFIP is simple. Invite individuals and groups across the province to participate in a local project to improve the local fishery. Once the project is approved, the ministry provides the funds for equipment and materials, along with some expert guidance. The rest is up to the participants.

The program's first full year was in 1982 when 24 projects were started. These included the rehabilitation of streams and spawning areas, the hatching and rearing of different species, and projects related to public education and information.

The following year, 36 projects led to even greater accomplishments. Volunteers stabilized two kilometres of stream banks, removed layers of silt and improved spawning areas. Other groups hatched and raised more than 200,000 walleye, rainbow trout and brown trout fry, 4,000 walleye fingerlings, and 6,000 rainbow trout yearlings.

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CFIP's achievements continue to grow with its popularity. In 1984, 109 projects were started -- projects like the one started by the Kitchener-Waterloo Flyfishers rehabilitating Galt Creek. They planted cedar trees, stabilized banks, and trimmed alder shrubs to let the sunlight through.

In northern Ontario, numerous walleye culturing projects sprang up with a record number of people taking part. In the Espanola area, volunteers came to the aid of walleye populations that had been decimated by acid rain. They collected 900,000 eggs, and later released more than 500,000 walleye fry into the local lakes.

The results are very encouraging. The word from areas of the province is that CFIP is working. Fish populations have captured public interest. Fish habitat is improving, and more and more people want to get involved.

"The beauty of the idea behind CFIP is that the government and the public can help each other by working hand-in-hand for an improved fishery and at a fraction of the normal cost," says Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio.

There are also other benefits. CFIP encourages communities to take care of what they have. It lets them appreciate and enjoy the beauty of the natural environment and the recreation it offers, in this case, catching more fish.

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And the future?

"Our next initiative will be to introduce CFIP to young people, to get youngsters involved and to promote better understanding of the resource," says Al Wainio, fisheries biologist and co-ordinator of the project.

Wainio cites the success of a similar program in British Columbia where school children and community groups proudly adopted streams, continuing to work on them year after year.

For more information on CFIP, contact your local district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RESOURCES REPORT

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January 1986

NEW CROSS-COUNTRY SKIS? TRY PROVINCIAL PARKS

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Cross-country skiing's so easy, it's just like walking.

Sound familiar? If you received cross-country skis this Christmas, you've probably heard it a thousand times.

Janet Given, a qualified ski instructor working for the Ministry of Natural Resources' Public Information Centre in Toronto, calls cross-country skiing an "extended walk."

"It's something like learning to walk all over again. But what a sense of accomplishment when you take those first steps," she says.

Given suggests trying out your new skis at one of Ontario's provincial parks. More than 40 of them have ski trails for everyone, ranging from two to 19 kilometres. Novice skiers can progress to the longer trails as their confidence and ability grows.

Always ski in pairs advises Given. Even a top-notch cross-country skier should have a partner in case of an emergency.

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As for the skis themselves, Given prefers wooden ones, although fibreglass skis are recommended for most new skiers since they are easier to wax. "The fibreglass fish-scale kind, which don't require waxing, may suit a skier who only goes out occasionally and doesn't like waxing. But wooden skis hold wax longer than fibreglass," she says.

Choose your skis carefully. To get the ideal fit, extend your arm fully above your head. The skis should reach from the ground to your wrist.

Comfortable boots are essential. "Your day can be ruined by bad boots," Given says.

The right clothes are important. The layered look is recommended for cross-country skiing.

"You can always take clothes off as you go along if you feel too warm," Given advises.

She says to start with cotton or wool. A cotton T-shirt followed by a wool turtle-neck sweater keeps moisture away from the skin. Add a light parka, long woollen socks over knickers -- Given prefers them over ski pants for cross-country wear -- a wool ski cap or face-covering balaclava, light woollen gloves or mitts and you're ready to go. "The idea is to keep it loose," says Given.

And even if you don't like wearing a hat, Given says it's essential for cross-country skiing. "Think of your head like a chimney letting a lot of body heat escape."

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Frost bite is always a hazard. The nose, ears or lips are particularly vulnerable, so watch for white spots on a windy day. You and your partner can warn each other if Jack Frost's up to no good.

Snow sticks to skis that haven't been treated with special waxes to make them run smoothly. The kind of wax you should use depends on the type of snow. For new-fallen snow, Given prefers a green or blue hard wax. For milder days, use a softer, purple or red wax, and for icy snow, try klister wax. Klister wax is a sticky, gluey substance that keeps you from slipping on icy hills.

"When you're ready to start cross-country skiing," says Given, "try a short trail, no longer than 20 minutes. Then, if you feel really cold or your equipment isn't comfortable you can turn back."

Provincial parks have trails where you can ski for a few hours or a few days. Frontenac Provincial Park has a winter skills program where it teaches snowshoeing and cross-country skiing to beginners.

There's little chance of becoming lost on cross-country ski trails in provincial parks. Warnings and directions are clearly marked by symbols and colors. Trails are identified in three ways:

- novice -- a green circle bisected by an S-curved line.
- more experienced skiers -- a blue square bisected by a moderately S-curved line.
- experts -- a black diamond bisected by a jagged lines.

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A slope exceeding 10 degrees, or where caution or preparedness is called for, is marked by a red hill symbol. Red arrows warn skiers of turns ahead as well as indicating the direction of travel. Other signs give trail names, mark distances and indicate the location of washrooms and warm-up huts.

Here is a list of provincial parks with cross-country ski trails and information on some of the trails. For further details, call the ministry's Public Information Centre in Toronto at (416) 965-3081, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation at (416) 965-4008, or local ministry offices in the area where you want to ski.

Provincial parks offer winter activities as well. So if there's room left in the trunk or car-top carrier, take a toboggan or skates along. You can go for a toboggan ride or a skate at Bronte Creek Provincial Park near Oakville -- or you can enjoy a winter cookout at Rushing River southeast of Kenora.

Algonquin Region

Algonquin Provincial Park has four groomed cross-country ski trails -- Fen Lake, a 13-kilometre loop, starting from West Gate; Mew Lake, 10.5-kilometres; Minessing Trail, a seven-kilometre round trip; and the David Thompson Trail on Leaf Lake with five-, seven-, and eight-kilometre loops, and two 18-kilometre loops. There are also trails at Silent Lake and Arrowhead provincial parks.

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Central Region

Cross-country ski trails are at Awenda, Bass Lake, Springwater, Earl Rowe, Wasaga Beach, Sibbald Point, Bronte Creek, Emily, Mark S. Burnham and Balsam Lake provincial parks.

Awenda, 11 kilometres north of Penetanguishene, has 30 kilometres of marked cross-country trails for both the novice and intermediate skier. A warm-up shelter and firewood are provided.

Bronte Creek, on the Oakville/Burlington townline just north of the QEW Exit 109 to Burloak Drive, has 13 kilometres of groomed cross-country ski trails, conditions permitting.

Eastern Region

Trails are found at Bon Echo, Carillon, Charleston Lake, Ferris, Frontenac, Presqu'île, Sandbanks, Fitzroy and Murphys Point provincial parks.

Charleston Lake, 22 kilometres north of Hwy. 401 Exit 659, has warm-up cabins along its 26 kilometres of groomed trails.

Presqu'île Provincial Park, exit at Hwy. 2, five kilometres south of Brighton, has 14 kilometres of trails, groomed as conditions permit.

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Southwestern Region

Iroquois Beach and Pinery provincial parks have ski trails.

Iroquois Beach, on Lake Erie near Port Burwell, has cross-country skiing throughout the property.

Pinery, eight kilometres south of Grand Bend, has 42 kilometres of cross-country ski trails. Visitors are urged to use the trails from Monday to Friday, because they receive heavy use on weekends.

Northern Region

Rene Brunelle Provincial Park, 19 kilometres west of Cochrane on Highway 11, has four kilometres of inter-connecting cross-country ski trails.

Kap-kig-iwan, at Englehart, has a five-kilometre looped trail known as the Upland Circle.

Kettle Lakes, northeast of Timmins, has three inter-connecting cross-country ski loops, three, six and nine kilometres long.

North Central Region

Three provincial parks -- Quetico, Sibley and Kakabeka Falls -- offer cross-country skiing.

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Quetico, one of Ontario's largest provincial parks, is 160 kilometres west of Thunder Bay on Hwy. 11.

Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing and winter camping are popular here.

Sibley, 38 kilometres east of Thunder Bay on Hwy. 11/17, has 54 kilometres of groomed and track set cross-country ski trails. The Thunder Bay Nordic Trails Association maintains and operates these trails.

Northeastern Region

Mississagi, Chutes and Windy Lake provincial parks have cross-country ski trails. White Lake, Michipicoten, Obatanga and Lake Superior do not have designated trails; however, cross-country skiers can use the parks.

Mississagi, 24 kilometres north of Elliot Lake, has 15 kilometres of cross-country ski trails.

Windy Lake, 50 kilometres northwest of Sudbury, has three cross-country ski trails. The first loop is 2.5 kilometres for beginners only. The others, for intermediate and experienced skiers, are on Crown land across the road from the park.

Northwestern Region

Sandbar Lake Provincial Park, southeast of Dryden, has an extensive network of trails.

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Rushing River, southwest of Kenora, has seven trails varying in length from one to seven kilometres.

For more information about cross-country skiing, write or visit the Public Information Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources, Room 1640, 99 Wellesley Street West, Whitney Block, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3. Or call (416) 965-3081.



RESOURCES REPORT

January, 1986

LET'S GO WINTER FISHING

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

Some people just can't relate to winter in Ontario. Gardeners resign themselves to reading seed catalogues. Golfers head for warmer climes or use the family broadloom for a putting green.

But anglers can fish all year round.

Drive to Lake Simcoe during January or February -- the peak of the ice fishing season -- and you'll see clusters of fish huts. Just north of Toronto, Simcoe is Ontario's most popular winter recreation lake, and averages some 2,000 fish huts every year.

The huts come in all sizes, and many of them can be rented from operators who provide a variety of services -- from transporting fishermen to and from shore on large snowmobiles, to seeing that their bait pails stay filled with minnows. The huts are warmed with propane or oil heaters, and there are benches placed around the ice hole to sit on while waiting for a "strike."

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In cold, blustery weather, huts provide warm shelter. But many winter fishermen prefer to rough it outdoors in an area of their choosing.

Whether your choice is a fish hut or the open air, don't forget to bundle-up. Wear thermal underwear, a warm parka, a toque or ski cap, mitts, snow pants, warm socks and winter boots. Take a thermos of soup, coffee, tea or hot chocolate and a few sandwiches along. You can get mighty hungry, and a bite to eat helps keep that body heater stoked up.

And never walk on the ice unless it is at least 10 centimetres (four inches) thick. To be safe, check first with the local ministry office or fish hut operator.

But before starting out, pick up a free Summary of the Ontario Fishing Regulations at any MNR office or sporting goods store where licences are sold.

Here's a quick rundown on some of Ontario's ice fishing spots.

Southern Ontario Lakes

Because Lake Simcoe is Ontario's most popular ice fishing lake, it is usually crowded -- especially on weekends.

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Jack Lawrence, of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Lake Simcoe Fisheries Assessment Unit, believes lake trout catches will be excellent this winter. The lake has been stocked with 100,000 yearlings annually for the past several years.

"Large numbers of yellow perch and whitefish were caught in the winter of 1983, the last year surveyed," says Lawrence. "Like the lake trout, whitefish are stocked each year. These whitefish are fin-clipped, and every angler who turns in a fin-clipped whitefish to either the assessment unit or a fish hut operator will get a special ministry crest. The data received after analysing these tag returns helps us to better manage the fishery."

Lake Simcoe's fish hut operators are based on the lakeshore at Barrie, Stroud, Belle Ewart, Oro Station, Keswick, Pefferlaw, Sutton, Jackson's Point, Port Bolster, Cannington, Beaverton and Brechin.

Lake Scugog -- just east of Toronto -- has walleye (yellow pickerel), and panfish to lure winter fishermen. Fish hut operators are at Port Perry and Caesarea.

In the Haliburton Highlands, you can fish for lake trout and whitefish in Boshkung Lake, and herring, lake trout, perch, smelt and whitefish in Mountain Lake. Bark Lake, at Barry's Bay just south of Algonquin Provincial Park, has lake trout and whitefish.

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In eastern Ontario, there's the Bay of Quinte for perch, pike, whitefish and walleye. Fish hut operators can be found at Belleville, Shannonville and Deseronto. Still farther east, pike and perch can be caught in Lake St. Francis, with hut operators at Lancaster.

Live herring may not be used for bait in lakes within Division 29 (Lennox and Addington and part of Frontenac County), as mentioned in the current Summary of the Ontario Fishing Regulations.

In southwestern Ontario, Lake Erie has perch, pike and smelt, with access at St. Williams and Long Point Bay. Ice fishing is popular in Inner Long Point Bay, Rondeau Bay and Mitchell's Bay.

On Georgian Bay -- with hut operators at Owen Sound, Victoria Harbour and Wiarton -- there's perch, rainbow trout, smelt, splake, whitefish and walleye.

Northern Ontario Lakes

Lake Nipissing is another extremely popular lake. To reduce pressure on herring, perch, pike, whitefish and walleye in this lake, winter fishermen are restricted to one line instead of their usual two.

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There are fish hut operators at North Bay, Callander, Sturgeon Falls, Crystal Falls, Verner and Lavigne.

In northeastern Ontario, you can find lake trout, ling and walleye in Lake Temagami where the 1986 winter fishing season for lake trout is from February 15 to March 15. Hut operators also work out of Cross Lake, Kokoko Lake, Cassels Lake, Herridge Lake, Wasaksina Lake and Jumping Caribou Lake.

There's good pike fishing in Larder Lake, Raven Lake and Watabeag Lake in the Kirkland Lake-Cochrane area, as well as Remi Lake east of Kapuskasing, and Horwood Lake near Foleyet. Popular Lake Abitibi, due east of Iroquois Falls, is great for walleye, and Wakami Lake, southeast of Chapleau, is renowned for its whitefish. At Batchawana Bay on Lake Superior north of Sault Ste. Marie, you'll find lake trout, perch and smelt.

In northwestern Ontario, Lake of the Woods, Kakagi (Crow) Lake and Rowan Lake have lake trout, perch, pike, whitefish and walleye. And you'll find these species in Atikokan's Clearwater West Lake. You'll also find fish hut operators at Fort Frances and Kenora.

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Timely Tips

Remember, winter angling is a different kettle of fish from summer angling! Forget your rod and reel, and make your own tipup.

Tipups work on the same principle as the old fashioned weigh scale -- a wooden stand holds a horizontal piece of wood bearing the line. The rig "tips up" when a fish strikes.

Another method is jigging -- bobbing the line up and down in the water to attract fish. Curious trout are tempted by the movement of brightly colored lures. Jigging rods are short; you can make one yourself or buy it at a store that sells fishing gear.

Pay particular attention to the following hints:

- o Keep your fishing hole free of ice. A line frozen into the ice could cost you a fish.
- o Keep alert. Fish can disappear quickly, pulling the line and tipup down with them.
- o Use sharp hooks. Fish strike more slowly in winter and can slip the hook. Use the proper sized hook for the species you're after. If in doubt, ask a knowledgeable fishing friend or hut operator.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fisheries Information
TORONTO (416) 965-7883



RESOURCES REPORT



February 1986

NEW HORIZONS FOR RAINBOWS

By Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

It's been well over a century since the dam owned by miller John Nicol first provided a steady supply of water for his adjacent grist, saw and woollen mills in the long-vanished Village of Nicolston, near Alliston, Ontario.

Little did Nicol realize that his dam would eventually be the site of the first Ontario government fishway. The first privately owned fishway was built in 1957 on the Sydenham River.

Allan Wainio, a biologist with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, recalls conditions before the fishway at the Nicolston dam was built four years later.

"Every spring, rainbow trout attempting to leap over the dam would draw spectators to the site. Sympathy always ran high as the crowds gathered to watch the leaping fish. It was very seldom that a fish would successfully surmount the dam.

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Because the rainbow trout were stocked after the dam was in place, they never had free access to the upper reaches of the Nottawasaga."

Now it's a different story. The Nicolston Dam Fishway, the Ganaraska Fishway, built in 1974 on the Ganaraska River at Port Hope, and nine more across the province, provide migrant fish access to spawning beds in popular rainbow trout streams. During spawning runs, fascinated crowds still watch thousands of these fish push their way into fishways, jostling each other like impatient rush-hour commuters, while anglers dream of the many fishing opportunities ahead.

And it's no idle dream! Lindsay district biologist David Bell says that the number of rainbow trout passing through the Ganaraska Fishway at Port Hope leaped dramatically from 7,900 in 1983 to 14,000 in the spring of 1985.

Bell believes that the increase could be largely due to the new channel constructed to protect Port Hope from flooding.

"When small falls that held back rainbow trout going upstream were removed, it made it easier for the fish to proceed," he said.

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Depending on age, the approximate average length and weight of rainbow trout using the Ganaraska Fishway is 52 centimetres (20 inches) and 2.7 kilograms (6 pounds) for males; 60 centimetres (24 inches) and 3.2 kilograms (7 pounds) for females.

To unbelievers, ladder-climbing rainbow trout seem as improbable as flying elephants. But to the thousands of onlookers who have witnessed this exciting event, it's a perfectly natural phenomenon.

To concede a point, a fish ladder isn't like the step-ladder we store in the garage. In fisheries jargon, "ladder" describes a certain kind of fishway -- a device that allows migrating rainbows to bypass a dam which otherwise would block access to upstream spawning grounds. Fishways are an important part of the ministry's rehabilitation program. They create better fishing by enabling more fish to reach their spawning grounds, as well as allowing ministry staff to collect data.

"Fishways open new horizons for both rainbow trout and fisheries managers," says Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio. "They provide many kilometres of rivers previously inaccessible to rainbows attempting to swim upstream to spawn. And the data collected by MNR staff is invaluable to our fisheries management."

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Before being released, trout detained in a fishway are tagged, weighed and measured. A scale is also scraped off their backs from which biologists can divide the trouts' age into years spent in streams and in open water. Rainbow trout captured in fishways range between 20 and 94 centimetres in length. They grow approximately 6 to 7.6 centimetres (2 1/2 to 3 inches) a year.

Tags returned by anglers give ministry fisheries specialists a picture of the species movements within the watershed and areas of highest fishing pressure. In addition, tagged fish that return to the fishway in subsequent years indicate survival and growth over a given period. When all this is recorded -- taking less than a minute -- the fish are free to continue their essential journey to suitable spawning beds.

The fishway is considered an invaluable management tool because it not only indicates the peak of the run but its size, how it fluctuates with temperature and water levels and how far the fish travel. It has even revealed that females make the run before the males.

There are a number of designs for fishways, with the size and height of a particular dam determining which type is suitable.

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For example, the ladder at Nicolston Dam Fishway takes advantage of the natural jumping ability of rainbow trout, while lift types are used for higher dams, such as on the Beaver River at Thornbury.

Here are brief descriptions of those commonly used in Ontario for rainbow trout.

The fishway ladder is a concrete chute, with a trap or "cage" at its top. Below the trap, baffleboards spaced at regular intervals create compartments in which the fish can rest. Each compartment has its own water level, about 30 centimetres below the one above it.

The rainbows ascend this series of steps until they reach the trap which is raised or lowered by a winch. They enter either by hurdling the last baffleboard or by swimming through a hole in the bottom corner. When the cage is raised, these entrances are blocked by a screen. A screen at the opposite end of the trap prevents them from escaping upstream until they are examined and released.

The lift type of fishway operates on the same principle as a canal lock. A gate at the bottom of the chamber is alternately opened and closed; when the gate is open the water flowing out attracts the fish into the chamber. Once the gate is closed, the chamber fills with water until the water level reaches the head pond or trap.

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The circular fishway is somewhat like a circular staircase. It consists of a series of pools or compartments and several baffles to reduce the water speed which lets fish ascend from one level to another.

"Everyone should certainly see this spectacular sight if they possibly can," says Mr. Kerrio. "It's a must for photography fans and, of course, you don't have to be an angler or outdoor enthusiast to enjoy one of our greatest natural outdoor events."

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EDITORS: A list of fishways is attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Fisheries Information
TORONTO (416) 965-7883

or

Allan Wainio
Fisheries Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-7885

RAINBOW TROUT FISHWAYS

Ganaraska Fishway -- Ganaraska River -- take Port Hope interchange 464 at Hwy. 28 on the south side of Hwy. 401, then take first road to the right.

Reid Mill Dam Fishway -- Credit River, Streetsville.

Lehman Dam Fishway -- on north tributary of Big Creek south of Hwy. 3 at the west edge of the Town of Delhi.

Port Albert Fishway -- Lucknow (Nine Mile) River, at Port Albert north of Goderich.

Denny's Dam Fishway, Saugeen River, Southampton.

Mill Dam Fishway, Sydenham River, Owen Sound.

Thornbury Fish Lock -- Beaver River, Thornbury.

Bear Creek Fishway -- Bear Creek, a tributary of the Nottawasaga River, 1.6 kilometers south of Hwy. 90, west of Barrie.

Nicolston Dam Fishway, Nottawasaga River -- on the north side of Hwy. 89, east of Alliston.

Earl Rowe Fishway, Boyne River in Earl Rowe Provincial Park, Alliston.

Lakehead Dam Fishway, McIntyre River, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay.

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RESOURCES REPORT

May 1986

TRY ONTARIO'S NORTH FOR SUPER SPORT

by Bob Defries
Ministry of Natural Resources

For many Ontario residents, the eerie call of a loon or a wolf's mournful howl is the nearest they'll ever get to the province's true north.

But this picture is changing as more and more people venture farther afield. Now both residents and visitors are hunting snow geese at native-run camps in the Hudson Bay low-lands, flying to isolated lakes for some first-class fishing, or trying their hand at wilderness camping in a northern provincial park.

Campers staying in Greenwater or Remi Lake provincial parks near Cochrane can take a day-long railway trip to Moosonee on James Bay via the famous Polar Bear Express.

And if they are looking for something more remote, they can camp at Tidewater Provincial Park near Moosonee. There, they will camp beside salt water where the shore is regularly washed by the ocean tides of James Bay.

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Some may decide to go further still and fly in for a round of fishing in Polar Bear Provincial Park -- that vast stretch of wilderness that extends from just north of Attawapiskat on the James Bay coast to just east of Fort Severn on the Hudson Bay coast.

Fly-in services to otherwise inaccessible lakes and rivers can be arranged through tourist outfitters. A free landing permit is required before aircraft can set down within Polar Bear Provincial Park for the excellent fishing on the Shagamu, Brant and Sutton Rivers. The permit can be picked up from the Ministry of Natural Resources office at Winisk or Moosonee.

Transportation costs vary according to the fly-in service chosen and individual needs.

The ministry's Public Information Centre in Toronto will provide names and addresses of air carriers on request. Air services leave from a number of northern communities, including Cochrane, Hearst, Wawa and Moosonee.

Anyone who has fished in such lakes as Big Trout, Pledger or Attawapiskat can boast angling experiences that make their long journey worthwhile. And countless other inland lakes contain popular sport fish such as northern pike, walleye, whitefish, lake and brook trout.

Some of the best brook trout fishing is found in northern rivers. The species abound in the Sutton, Albany and Brant rivers, or in those with such lyrical Indian names as Winisk, Shagamu, Shamattawa, Attawapsikat, Ashweig, Aquatuk, and Lakitusaki.

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Chris Brousseau, Fisheries Biologist for the Ministry of Natural Resources' Northern Region, says the Sutton -- that flows into Hudson Bay -- has the best brook trout fishing in the world.

"They're big and brassy -- they jump at anything," Brousseau says. While collecting data for a management plan of the Sutton River, he even found remains of mice in stomachs of some aggressive trout.

This world-class river is virtually teeming with speckled beauties. "Often we saw schools of 40 or 50 brook trout," says Brousseau. Most of those he caught for research purposes averaged 40 centimetres in length and six were more than 50 centimetres. Some weighed 1.8 kilograms.

To perpetuate this world class fishery, Brousseau says the ministry is proposing a restricted tackle fishery (single barbless hooks only). The ministry is currently seeking input from the public on this proposal and any comments should be directed to the District Manager, Box 190, Moosonee, Ontario, P0L 1Y0 by May 31, 1986.

Brousseau says novice canoeists and anglers needn't fear the Sutton: "Although its current is fairly rapid, this poses no special danger. However, it's wise to watch for rocks since the river is quite shallow."

There are now portages or rapids on the Sutton River. "That's a big plus," he says, "but it pays to be careful because we're looking at some pretty wild, isolated country.

We saw more waterfowl than mammals along the way, but there are moose, caribou and polar bears in the area."

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Brousseau isn't the only one who knows good fishing grounds. The region's native people have been fishing on the Sutton and other northern rivers for centuries. They also operate fishing camps and provide guides for sport fishermen.

While there's no disputing the north's high quality angling -- which lures sport fishermen not only from southern parts of the province but from across the U.S. border -- this vast and bountiful north country is also enjoyed by hunters.

Hundreds of hunters spend vacations at the very top of Ontario, frequently travelling thousands of miles to bag their share of ducks and geese before returning to their homes in Ontario or the U.S.

Fourteen goose camps on the shores of James Bay are run by native people, and every year hundreds of waterfowlers spend an average of \$800 for a three-day hunt.

It's time well spent. In 1985, for example 748 hunters harvested a total of 6,641 lesser snow geese and Canada geese and 3,791 ducks.

The native guides, who closely imitate the calls of ducks and geese, bring the birds within easy target range for their guests. And native women charge a nominal fee for plucking, cleaning and packaging birds that sportsmen take home with them.

Many of our fathers and grandfathers can remember when the far north was mostly remote and inaccessible wilderness. Little has changed. It still consists of flat expanses of barren tundra -- a landscape broken only by the black spruce lining the river banks.

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No description will ever do justice to the north. It's something you must see for yourself. And it's an experience you will never forget.

For more information, write to the Public Information Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources, Room 1640, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 1W3, or phone (416) 965-2445.

RESOURCES REPORT

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July 1986

STALKING RABIES CARRIERS IN THE URBAN JUNGLE

by Jane Naczynski
Ministry of Natural Resources



Rabies is a disease that somehow doesn't quite belong in the twentieth century. We think of it as a relic of the dark ages, as a slightly unreal phenomenon or as an historical footnote that ranks alongside the Fire of London and the bubonic plague.

But in the age of the micro-chip and macro-economics, the evidence is that the incidence of rabies is a natural cycle, and right now, that cycle is on the upswing. Here in Ontario, rabies is making its greatest inroads in -- of all unlikely places -- our cities.

"Animals, like people, are becoming more and more urbanized," says Rick Rosatte, a biologist specializing in rabies control who works with the Ministry of Natural Resources. "They make their homes in places as diverse as sewers, ravines, cemeteries, and under buildings.

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"And as they become more common in the city, so does rabies move with them, and the risk of rabies to humans increases greatly."

A great deal has been learned about rabies in the 100 years since Louis Pasteur successfully tested his first crude anti-rabies vaccine. Today's treatment series are less time-consuming -- and nowhere near as horrific.

Yet the numbers of cases keep climbing. About 2,000 Ontarians are treated for rabies each year, and rabies costs us \$20-million annually - in vaccinations for pets, in research, in human treatments, and in public health inspections.

This new urban twist opens up another chapter in the rabies story, one that has yet to be written.

"We need to know more about the habits of this new breed of urbanized wild animal," says Rosatte. "Where do they live? Where are people most likely to come into contact with them? How many are there? What are their movements? Right now, there are more questions than answers."

Rosatte and a team of dedicated biologists, technicians and animal experts are involved in studies that will add to our knowledge of urban wildlife, and will help the Ministry of Natural Resources in its urban rabies control strategy.

Though the research is being concentrated in Toronto, results will be applied to other urban centres in the province.

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The research team is interested in those animals that have the highest reported incidence of rabies: skunks, red foxes and, most recently, raccoons.

"Skunks are the most important rabies carrier in urban areas, while foxes are the more important carrier in rural areas," says Rosatte.

From 1980 to 1984, 104 skunks in Metro Toronto were diagnosed rabid.

And in the decade from 1974 to 1984, 26 rabid foxes were documented in Metro. Yet more recently -- in just the 18 months from April 1984 to September 1985 -- 27 cases were reported.

MNR has been studying the urban rabies phenomenon since 1984.

"Raccoons are rarely affected by Ontario's known rabies strains," says Rosatte. "However, there's a different strain of rabies virus moving up the Atlantic coast of the United States which does affect raccoons. If it strikes here in Ontario, we want to be prepared."

Rabies has been a problem in Ontario cities since 1963 but the disease goes back much farther than that in Canadian history. It was probably in the Canadian Arctic before white man arrived. The disease was transmitted by Arctic foxes, killing a large proportion of the sled dog population every 20 years or so.

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Since the '60s, the Ministry of Natural Resources has been studying ways and means of controlling it. Recent rabies studies have focused on the technology to control rabies. Ingested and injected vaccines, population control and tracking of animals by radio, have all been tested in field conditions.

Now, with urban rabies increasing, Rosatte and his team will be looking at the relatively new field of urban wildlife habits and habitat.

During 1986-87, they will be involved in four studies.

The first study involves the capture of twenty skunks in the Scarborough area. They will be fitted with transmitters and their movements monitored from July to Spring 1987. These animals too will be caught in harmless live traps and vaccinated and ear-tagged before being released.

How do you approach a caged skunk? Cautiously, according to Rick.

"Actually, it's rare to be sprayed by an Ontario urban skunk. They're quite accustomed to being around people. Still, it's wise to approach the live trap with a plastic sheet held in front of you," says Rosatte.

The second study involves both skunks and raccoons in a trap-vaccinate-release program.

From August to November, live traps will be set in 24 areas throughout Metro Toronto. Captured skunks and raccoons will be vaccinated against rabies and then released.

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The traps will be re-set at the same sites later. By re-capturing some animals, the rabies team will be able to estimate the size of the skunk and raccoon populations in those 24 areas, and determine what percentage of the population was vaccinated.

The third study is the first foray the MNR team will make into red foxes in an urban environment.

"We know very little about red foxes' movements in cities because there have been no such studies before in Ontario," says Rosatte. "This study in Metro Toronto is to gather basic information about where the foxes live -- where their denning sites are.

"We're asking people to report any sightings of fox pups and occupied fox dens in Metro. It's a first step in looking at fox numbers, the boundaries of their habitat, and their adaptation to urban living."

People have been asked to report fox sightings in an area lying south of Highway 7, and between Meadowvale Road to the east and Highway 427 to the west.

People can phone in their sightings to Paula Kelly-Ward at MNR's wildlife research section in Maple at (416) 832-2761, extension 261, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The fourth study is focused on what happens to urbanized raccoons -- nuisance raccoons -- that are relocated from the city to a rural environment. That study is sponsored by the Ontario Humane Society.

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"The Society has been taking nuisance raccoons from their urban homes to rural areas. The Society -- and MNR -- is interested in what happens to these raccoons. Do they return to the city? Or do they adapt, and survive in the rural environment? This could tell us a great deal about how permanent such a transition is for these animals," says Rosatte.

In this study, beginning in mid-August 1986, 17 Toronto raccoons will be trapped in live-traps which do not harm the animal. After being vaccinated against rabies, tagged for identification, and fitted with radio-transmitting collars, the raccoons will be released in their new rural home. Their movements will be monitored daily until December 1, 1986.

"All of our studies add to our general knowledge -- of these animals, of how effective our vaccines are, and how we can best devise a rabies control program that really works," says Rosatte.

"If we find there are very few animals in a given area, we may decide to do nothing at all. Rabies relies on a fairly high population density for transmission of the disease to be successful."

Members of the rabies research team are themselves immunized as a precaution.

There are on-the-job hazards in working with urban wildlife -- including cuts, bites, bruises and punctures from needles. Rosatte once suffered a broken leg.

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rabies feature - 7

But none of this fazes Rosatte, whose most difficult moments in the field happened when he worked for the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Lethbridge, Alberta.

"There, the skunks were much more likely to spray. And when they did -- it wasn't easy to get a motel room!"

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Rick Rosatte
Rabies Research Unit
MAPLE (416) 832-2761, extension 261

RESOURCES REPORT

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September, 1986

RESURRECTING THE LAKE TROUT IN THE GREAT LAKES

There's a million stories in the freshwater fisheries of Ontario -- and the battle to save the lake trout of the Great Lakes from extinction against the venerable foes of overfishing and lamprey predation is one that will make its mark in the province's wildlife history.

It all began in 1829. The Welland Canal was opened, circumventing Niagara Falls and joining Lake Ontario with Lake Erie. It proved an instant success with Canadian commercial lake traffic as an alternative shipping route to the long, arduous Erie Canal.

Over time, the Welland Canal also opened up the Great Lakes to a very undesirable and alien guest -- the land locked sea lamprey. This parasitic creature was, until the canal's construction, confined to the waters below Niagara Falls.

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It was actually almost a century before the first male and female sea lamprey found their way through the Welland Canal locks and into suitable spawning streams. And it was 1921 before the first land locked sea lamprey distinguished from its ocean-going cousins by its smaller size -- was discovered in Lake Erie. But less than 20 years later, the sea lamprey had established itself in Lakes Huron and Michigan, where favorable habitat conditions allowed it to proliferate to the point where lamprey populations spilled over into Lake Superior.

These Great Lakes provided the sea lamprey with both a deep water habitat and ideal spawning streams. More importantly, they were replete with the lamprey's favorite prey -- the lake trout -- onto which the parasite would attach itself.

Lamprey destroyed the lake trout commercial fishing industry in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan, and almost destroyed the entire lake trout populations in both lakes.

The battle to eradicate the lamprey took on international proportions with the formation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. Immediately after its creation in 1956, this Canadian-American commission devised and approved an electrical barrier designed to stop lampreys on their way upstream to spawn.

Unfortunately, while the "weir" was effective at killing lamprey, it was just as effective at killing fish, such as walleye and rainbow trout and even animals, such as beaver and moose. This clearly inappropriate answer to the lamprey problem was also very expensive and hard to maintain.

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The lamprey's unusual life cycle proved to be the basis for a new, more workable solution to the dilemma.

A spawning female lamprey can lay up to 200,000 eggs in its sand and gravel streambed nest. Only 10 per cent usually survive, due to natural predation. These young lamprey, or "ammocoetes," leave the nest after about three weeks and drift downstream. When they reach stream banks composed of sand, silt or mud, the ammocoetes burrow their tails into what will be their homes for the next 10 to 11 years.

During that time, ammocoetes live on minute plant and animal material. By their eighth year, they usually develop the rasping tongue and sharp teeth which enable them to attach themselves to their prey. After growing to between 10 and 15 centimetres in length, the sea lamprey swims to the lake draining the stream in which it was born. It returns to its birthplace one year later to breed and die.

In the early 1960s, "lampricide" was introduced, a chemical which was formulated to selectively kill lamprey during their vulnerable ammocoete period.

Today, lampricide is carefully sprayed upstream from known lamprey spawning sites. It then drifts downstream and sinks into the sandy stream banks where ammocoetes are most likely found.

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The lampricide is very effective -- 90 per cent of the creatures are eradicated in some streams, says Dr. Doug Dodge, supervisor of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources' (MNR) environmental dynamics section. But no adverse effects have ever been recorded on the fish, plants or animals in the spraying area.

"Stronger lampricides as well as improved distribution methods have since been developed to stay ahead of lamprey reproduction," Dodge says. "Barrier dams have also been devised to prevent the upstream migration of adult lamprey so that they cannot spawn."

The introduction of lampricide coincided with MNR's first trout restocking efforts.

Research toward a Great Lakes restocking plan had demonstrated that a hybrid trout would mature faster and spawn earlier than pure lake trout, thereby giving the fish population a chance to hold its own against lamprey predation. After 10 years of study, the splake was introduced to the Great Lakes.

Eight hundred thousand of these half lake trout, half brook trout were stocked in Georgian Bay every year for eight years.

Then, in 1977, unsatisfactory results and adverse public opinion brought the splake program to a halt.

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Criticisms of the program ranged from the splake's alleged inability to reproduce naturally to its apparent lack of popularity among anglers to condemnations for spending tax money on a project which was perceived as ineffective.

"Opinions are divided as to why the splake experiment did not succeed," says John Byrne, supervisor of MNR's fish culture section. "Some experts believe that diseases in the hatchery were at fault. But others are more convinced that the brook trout genes in splake caused the fish to mature too quickly, causing an early death."

What followed was an intensive re-examination of the program. Two years after shelving its splake restocking project, MNR was ready to try again with the lake trout backcross, a hybrid that is about 75 per cent lake trout and 25 per cent brook trout selected to resolve the earlier problems.

Nearly one million of these fish have been planted in Georgian Bay every year since 1979, and the results of this project have been much more encouraging than the earlier experiments with the splake.

"For one thing, they are living longer," says Stan Munroe, MNR's Lake Huron fisheries co-ordinator. "We have caught backcross that are six or seven years old and weigh over seven kilograms."

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But the best indication that the backcross experiment may be a success is the fact that naturally reproduced backcross fry have been discovered near Owen Sound for the last two consecutive years.

Although only 14 of the backcross fry were seen in 1986, and only three in 1985, researchers are cautiously optimistic.

"To find these fry, which are only two centimetres long, in the immensity of Georgian Bay, is a significant discovery," Munroe says.

After nearly 25 years of study, experimentation, and false starts, actual proof now exists that a man-made hybrid of lake trout can reproduce in the wild.

Index fishing will be undertaken by Ministry staff during future summers. The presence or absence of MNR fin markings, used to identify hatchery stock, will distinguish naturally spawned fish from those stocked by the ministry. (For index fishing, staff sample all fish-age classes by using variable mesh sizes of gill nets.)

Despite the efforts to both restock the Great Lakes with a lake trout hybrid and to control the sea lamprey population, the problem still won't easily be solved. Recent evidence indicates that the lamprey population is actually increasing in the St. Marys River. Lamprey breeding conditions are so ideal that completely eradicating the creature from this river would be a very expensive proposition, according to Dodge.

lake trout - 7

Solutions don't come easily in the world of fisheries research. The lake trout saga is a case in point. But persevering souls like those involved in bringing back the lake trout will ensure that the search continues for new and innovative approaches to rebuilding and stabilizing depleted fish populations in our waterways.

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RESOURCES REPORT

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-R26

WILD TURKEYS A CHALLENGE FOR HUNTERS



Sportsmen are eagerly anticipating spring when the first wild turkey season in Ontario since the early 1900s will take place in the Napanee area.

A wild turkey reintroduction program -- started in 1984 by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) and other conservationists -- has been so successful that the wild turkey population is now large enough to support a controlled hunt.

The hunt will be held in May, after most of the hens have been bred. Only bearded turkeys, primarily males (known as gobblers), will be hunted. Gobblers will still be seeking out hens, and hunters will be imitating hen calls to lure gobblers within shooting range.

A spring hunt for gobblers will not threaten the survival of the wild turkey population. One male usually breeds a number of females, so a controlled reduction in the number of males does not reduce the population's reproductive potential, says John Harcus, MNR's small game and waterfowl program co-ordinator.

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Although wild turkey hunting is new to Ontario hunters, it is extremely popular south of the border.

An estimated 1.7 to 2.0 million people hunt wild turkeys annually in the United States, making them one of the most important game animals in the United States, says OFAH Provincial Co-ordinator of Fish and Wildlife Services, Lance Males.

"Wild turkeys are by far the most elusive of all game I've hunted," he says.

Hunting wild turkeys is a waiting game. Stalking is almost impossible because they are alert, keen-sighted birds; it is also potentially dangerous as it could lead you to another hunter, mimicking the calls of a wild turkey hen.

A hunter should locate a calling spot in open woods, sit down against a large tree and remain still. With a calling device, a hunter can imitate any one of a hen's many sounds and draw gobblers into shotgun or bow range.

There are a variety of devices available which are used to imitate a hen's call. First-time hunters should start with a hand-held unit such as a box-call or a slate. More experienced hunters use a mouth-held diaphragm, which allows the hands to be free and eliminates the motion of putting down a call and picking up a shotgun. Such movement can easily tip off a gobbler that he is to become someone's dinner, not someone's mate.

"It takes patience," Males says. "Whatever you do, don't call like a gobbler or another hunter could mistake you for one!"

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Wild turkey hunters will need to wear total camouflage clothing to be successful. Even the hands and face should be camouflaged as the appearance of uncamouflaged flesh can alert a wild turkey to the hunter's presence.

Few Ontario hunters have experience in wild turkey hunting, so OFAH -- in co-operation with MNR -- will hold seminars covering special techniques and safety, followed by MNR wild turkey hunter examination. Locations and dates of the seminars will be provided when hunters pick up their application forms for the controlled hunt.

Only shotguns and archery equipment will be permitted. However, Lance Males expects few hunters will use archery equipment because of the difficulties involved.

The number of hunters will be restricted. Hunters will require a wild turkey tag -- costing \$12 -- to participate in the hunt. Ministry officials will survey the number of wild turkeys in the Napanee area this winter to determine how many hunting tags will be sold. No more than 1,000 tags are expected to be issued. If applications exceed the number of tags available, a random draw will determine their allocation. Hunters must have a valid small-game licence to apply for a wild turkey tag.

"I expect hunters will come to Napanee from all parts of Ontario," John Marcus says.

The early May hunt will consist of two consecutive six-day seasons in Wildlife Management Units 68 and 71. The first season will run from Monday, May 4, to Saturday, May 9. The second will follow on Monday, May 11, and run to Saturday, May 16.

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Hours will be restricted to a half-hour before sunrise to noon. Most of the hunting will be done on private land, so the permission of landowners is necessary. Trespass laws will be enforced.

Wild turkeys are native to several U.S. states and have been successfully introduced in others. Today, wild turkeys are found in 49 states.

Americans have thought highly of the birds since the first Thanksgiving. In fact, wild turkeys almost edged out the bald eagle as the United States' national bird.

"Wild turkeys were native to southern Ontario but as mature trees were harvested and land cleared for farmland, the birds lost their habitat," Marcus says. "This, and possibly unregulated hunting, led to the wild turkey's demise by the early 1900s."

In the past, provincial officials and sportsmen's clubs made several attempts to reintroduce turkeys, but until recently all failed. Past attempts involved pen-raised birds, which were susceptible to disease and dependent on supplementary feeding.

Plans quickly fell into place for the reintroduction of wild turkeys when Michigan, a state where wild turkeys have also been successfully reintroduced, asked Ontario for some moose. Ontario sent moose from Algonquin Provincial Park to the State in exchange for wild turkeys from lower Michigan.

At the same time, Ontario arranged to trade river otters with Missouri for more wild turkeys. Other states delivered birds as part of trades or as gifts.

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Since 1984, MNR -- in conjunction with OFAH and other conservationists -- has reintroduced 253 wild turkeys from Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, New York and Vermont. The birds were released in five ministry districts in southern Ontario: Napanee, Simcoe, Huronia, Cambridge and Niagara.

The reintroduction program has been particularly successful in Napanee, where 96 Michigan wild turkeys were stocked in the winter of 1984. The birds bred and by the spring of 1986 the Napanee area was home to an estimated 700 birds. By next spring, there could be several thousand birds.

Female wild turkeys lay about 12 eggs and although the eggs and young are susceptible to predators, the adult birds seem to have few serious natural enemies.

"If all goes well, wild turkey numbers will also increase in Simcoe, Huronia, Niagara and Cambridge districts," Marcus says. Controlled hunts may be organized for these districts if the wild turkeys continue to prosper.

For more information on the wild turkey hunt contact the Ministry of Natural Resources' Napanee district office at 1 Richmond Blvd., Napanee, Ontario, K7R 3S3, (613) 354-2173. Information can be also be obtained from the ministry's Public Information Centre, Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, M7A 1W3, (416) 965-4251.

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RESOURCES REPORT

CAZON
NR
- R26

April

NEW RESIDENT SPORT FISHING LICENCES SELLING WELL

Last year it was Cecebe Lake, the year before it was Baptiste Lake near Bancroft. This year they will spend a week at Buckhorn Lake in hopes of catching some walleye and perch.

For years now, Dan Costea and Jim Chevalier have been enjoying week-long fishing trips just after the spring thaw in May. It is nothing fancy -- just a couple of open-faced reels, their favorite jigs and plugs, and a 10-horsepower outboard.

But this year the checklist of equipment for the annual ritual will include something new -- an Ontario resident sport fishing licence. Jim bought his licence in early March at a retail outlet in London, and Dan received his in Toronto as a birthday present this year.

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As of January 1, 1987, most Ontario anglers aged 18 to 64 must purchase a licence from one of Ontario's 3,000 private issuers, or any district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The licences cost \$10 for the year, or \$5 for any four consecutive days of fishing. Ontario is the last Canadian province to introduce the resident sport fishing licence. The revenue raised from the licences will be used for fisheries management.

Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio bought the first licence last November in Niagara Falls. During a small ceremony, he urged other anglers to join him because "the funds from the licence will allow us to enhance ministry programs to protect, maintain and rebuild" the fisheries resource. Since then, thousands of Ontario residents have followed suit. Some senior citizens and young people under the age of 18 who are not obliged to buy a licence, have done so anyway because they want to make a contribution to fisheries management.

In Sudbury, a MNR district office staffer reports sales of approximately 150 seasonal licences, while two private outfitters in town have sold more than a thousand. North Bay has one of the busiest district offices, with its licence sales now well past the 450 mark. Another local outfitter is reported to be selling a hundred licences a day.

The best selling area to date is Bracebridge in the heart of the Muskoka lakes. The Bracebridge district office and the 75 retail outlets in the district have sold well over 2,250 licences.

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At the Toronto Sportsmen's Show in mid-March sales at the MNR exhibit totalled over 2,650 for the 10-day show, while private outlets at the show sold well over 1,000 licences.

When the licence is well established, sales should total between \$8- and \$10-million. That money will be spent on fisheries management, in addition to the ministry's regularly budgeted funds that amount to about \$30-million annually.

Foreseeing added revenue this year, the government has provided advanced funding to begin work on some 35 projects across the province. A community-run fish hatchery in Sault Ste. Marie and a plan to return Atlantic salmon to the Great Lakes are just a couple of the programs under way.

Managing fish stocks in Ontario is vital to the future of the fishery. The province has one of the most popular sports fishing industries in Canada. In the 1985-1986 fiscal year, 2.3 million sports fishermen spent an estimated \$700-million on fishing trips and equipment in Ontario. Now, Ontario anglers will also have the opportunity to invest in the future of the province's fishery by purchasing a licence each year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact staff at your local district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources, or

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RESOURCES REPORT

CAZON
NR
-R26

NORMANDALE PROGRAM MAY IMPROVE RAINBOW SUCCESS

Sometimes it pays to go wild. That's what the staff at the Normandale Fish Hatchery are hoping. Four years ago, biologists suggested that their resident rainbow trout breeding stock were producing offspring that were less than desirable for stocking. On top of this, pathologists discovered the presence of disease organisms.

Staff at this Ministry of Natural Resources hatchery south of Simcoe in Ontario's tobacco belt weren't really surprised. In 1969, hatchery staff had begun developing a brood stock and the hatchery was designated the rainbow trout station of Ontario. That meant it worked with the adult fish, did all the incubation and spawning and delivered the fingerlings for stocking. In the process, however, the brood stock had lost its wild vigor and become severely inbred.

The disease discovery looked like the end of a story that had its ups and downs. Rainbows had been introduced to Ontario from the West Coast about the turn of the century. But environmental changes damaged spawning and nursery areas. With a steadily increasing number of anglers, the ministry had to do extensive stocking just to maintain the trout fishery.

With the discovery of the disease agents, Ministry biologists decided to phase out its old resident breeders and start over again with wild stock from local streams.

To avoid genetic decline, hatchery staff went back to the rivers in 1983, 1984 and 1985 to give themselves not only wild stock, but stock from three distinct year classes.

That, in turn, enabled them to use "rotational line-crossing" to maintain genetic diversity.

In layman's terms, for example, eggs from 1984 females would be fertilized with milt from 1985 males. The eggs from the offspring of this union may then be fertilized with milt from males of another year-class. This controlled breeding is a dramatic change from the previous system where eggs from the resident brood stock were mass fertilized at random.

To facilitate the operation of these complex breeding schemes, Normandale manager Bill Hooper added new early-rearing facilities to the hatchery and also a system to isolate eggs into family boxes.

The fertilization process is orderly. Depending on size, a female rainbow provides between 2,000 to 10,000 eggs. These eggs are stripped from a ripe four-year-old female, put into a mason jar, and then fertilized with milt from a three-year old male. The jars are then labelled, disinfected and brought into an isolation room.

The adults, meanwhile, are sent to the University of Guelph for disease analysis. Until those tests are completed, the fertilized eggs are kept separate from all egg hatches.

Back in the isolation room, the eggs have been placed in their separate boxes and water temperature and oxygen levels are monitored regularly.

To prevent disease spread, each of the 256 separate family boxes has separate water inflow and outflow to prevent contamination between the units. Effluent from the boxes is chlorinated to stop any disease getting out of the hatchery into local waters.

After fry develop and use up their yolk-sac, they are fed eight to 10 times daily and kept on a special diet for six to eight weeks, after which they are given regular hatchery fish food.

When the fish reach the fingerling stage, they are fin-clipped for identification purposes and releases.

The results of this careful process may be the creation of more self-sustaining rainbow runs in new areas. These new runs will help supplement existing or developing populations without the risk of having these stocks "diluted" genetically with the kind of domestic stock once raised at Normandale.

The future looks promising. In addition to the new program at Normandale, fishways have been constructed to allow fish upstream over dams and extensive stream rehabilitation work has been carried out in the past several years. This may be one reason why runs have increased recently. The estimated run of fish on the Ganaraska in 1965, for example, was 300 adults. In 1984, the figure had jumped to 14,000.

If the hatchery program and rehabilitation work produce the results that ministry staff are hoping for, there may be a chance that rainbow trout could be self-sustaining to the point that stocking numbers can be reduced in Lake Ontario, and possibly Lake Huron.

"Hatchery staff hope this careful system of isolating and quarantining will also help them start another stocking program -- bringing back Atlantic salmon and a new variety of rainbows, Skamania trout," said Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio. "Those programs will be supported by funds from the new resident sport fishing licence."

Actually, two strains of Atlantic salmon -- a sea-run variety and a land-locked strain -- are undergoing suitability studies and other strains will be considered. A choice will be made in several years.

These new projects also resulted in changes at Normandale. To avoid disease, Normandale staff established a quarantine section within the hatchery and restricted other areas. The new stocks, the early rearing and incubation areas are all under quarantine, as well as the brood stock areas. Before entering these areas, workers don rubber boots and a lab coat or smock, disinfect their hands and swab their boots with disinfectant.

The same principles applied to rainbow rearing have also been applied to Atlantic salmon and Skamania trout. After each family is processed, all equipment that has been used is disinfected, along with each trough and the brushes and pickers that belong to that trough.

Within a decade, Normandale may create a surge in Atlantic salmon populations and have helped to introduce Skamania rainbows to provide rainbow anglers with an extended season. Skamania are expected to run shorelines and rivers from July to September, while present rainbow stocks don't appear until September.

Given an ideal world and environment, Ontario wouldn't need Normandale, other than to maintain specific genetic strains of fish. Pristine waters would produce all the healthy rainbows and salmon that anglers would ever need.

"I hope that day comes," says superintendent Bill Hooper. "Until it does, Normandale will be there assisting nature and helping fish populations to remain healthy."

RESOURCES REPORT

July 1987

CHRON
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-R26

KEEPING OUR WATERWAYS SAFE

Thousands of people will take to the waterways of Ontario this summer in all manner of boats - canoes, dinghies, catamarans, powerboats and yachts. It's great fun and looks easy -- if you know what you're doing.

But do you know ---

- that waterways have "rules of the road" too?
- how to steer a canoe without switching your paddle from side to side?
- how to double your chances of survival if you fall into cold water?
- how to help someone whose boat has "turned turtle"?

If you want to join the fun of boating this summer but are not familiar with basic water safety, the wisest thing to do is take a boating course.



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The Ministry of Natural Resources can help you find a course that suits your boating interests. MNR's Office of Recreational Boating, established in 1984, provides information about boating regulations and facilities, and promotes boating safety.

MNR staff have investigated the causes of boating accidents and identified the main skills needed to reduce the risks of mishaps on the water. Then, to insure as many people as possible learn those skills, MNR helps fund water safety programs administered by both the Ontario Division of the Canadian Red Cross and the Ontario Safety League.

"The ministry supports these programs for one very good reason -- teaching proper boating skills and accident prevention techniques is the best way to make Ontario's waterways safer," said Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio.

The Red Cross has long been involved in the teaching of swimming, water safety and first aid.

In 1973, the society began to develop the Small Craft Safety Program which includes instruction in canoes, rowboats and powered craft.

Statistics show that people operating boats less than six metres (18 feet) -- especially those who use their craft as part of some other recreational activity -- are most at risk.

To give these people the safe boating message, the Red Cross has nine mobile demonstration teams that tour the province teaching boating skills, risk prevention and survival techniques.

This spring, Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio presented the Red Cross with a cheque for \$43,000 to help fund the mobile teams.

Last summer, more than 1,700 people were certified by these teams in the various courses of the program. The team members visited public beaches, provincial parks, cottage areas and camps, bringing their safety message to more than 42,000 people of all ages.

By going directly to recreation areas, the teams' demonstrations of survival and rescue techniques were doubly effective because participants could practise the skills right away.

Through the teams' efforts all across Ontario, people have learned how to choose approved lifejackets, or the new PFDs (Personal Floatation Devices). PFDs are the new, light, comfortable fitting vests that resemble fishermen's vests. Instead of bulky material around the neck and chest, relatively thin flotation material is used, allowing full arm movement.

They also learned how those lifejackets keep people afloat so they can assume the Heat Escape Lessening Position, commonly called HELP by boaters.

HELP involves staying still with your elbows in and your knees pulled into your chest to prevent needless loss of body heat and double your survival time. If you can climb out of the water onto your boat your chances are even better -- and you will be more visible.

Short periods of immersion in moderately cool water -- even in July or August -- can lower your core body temperature enough to cause harm and prevent you from rescuing yourself. Prolonged exposure to cold water can lead to paralysis, heart failure and other severe effects.

HELP is the most important -- and the simplest -- technique for controlling the effects of severe body heat loss, or hypothermia. HELP can often double the time people can survive in the water.

The Ontario Safety League also teaches safe boating skills directly to the public in Ontario's provincial parks, through its Canoe Safety Program started 18 years ago in Algonquin Park. This season, MNR has granted \$14,000 to the League to expand the instruction to several other parks, and 13 of the ministry's Junior Ranger camps for young people.

These free one-day clinics include demonstrations by qualified instructors and on-the-water personal instruction, all of which make subsequent canoe trips into the park much more enjoyable because the canoeists have improved their skills and are more aware of the dangers.

Safe boating courses stress common sense and simple safety rules. For example, 10 very important rules to keep in mind are:

- Listen to the weather reports before setting out in a boat. Be aware of changing weather patterns.
- Let someone know the route you are taking and the time you plan to return.

- For your safety, the Canadian Coast Guard requires that, before you set out in a boat, you have the minimum required safety equipment aboard. For smaller craft, this list includes; an approved lifejacket or PFD for each person; two oars with rowlocks or two paddles; one hand-held bailer or manual pump; some type of horn, whistle or sound signalling device, and the proper lights according to coast guard collision regulations.
- Wear your lifejacket or PFD - especially if you are a weak swimmer or are venturing out in cold or rough water.
- Load your boat carefully. Do not exceed the weight limit on the capacity plate attached to your boat. Distribute your load for good balance.
- Don't stand up in a small boat.
- If your boat capsizes or you fall out -- STAY WITH YOUR CRAFT. Assume the Heat Escape Lessening Position, or HELP, and signal for assistance.
- Powerboats must stay out of the way of swimmers, divers and self-powered craft such as canoes and sailboats.
- DON'T DRINK AND BOAT.
- Take a boating course.

For copies of Ontario's Boating Restriction Regulations or the Canadian Coast Guard's Safe Boating Guide, contact the Public Information Centre, Ministry of Natural Resources, Room 1640, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto M7A 1W3, or telephone (416) 965-2000.

For detailed information about water safety courses, safety precautions, regulations, or other boating matters, contact the Office of Recreational Boating, Ministry of Natural Resources, Room 2352, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-3238

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RESOURCES REPORT

September 1987

WORKING TOGETHER AT THE INTERNATIONAL PLOWING MATCH

The outdoors comes indoors at the International Plowing Match, where visitors can see a running stream, forest animals, and a simulated wetland -- all in one big tent. The exhibit, entitled "Working Together", is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and focuses on the ways landowners, the ministry and private groups can co-operate in the management of natural resources on privately owned property.

"We want to let landowners know that in managing natural resources on their properties, they don't have to do it alone," said MNR show co-ordinator Bob Gray. "There is assistance available, not only from ministry staff, but from clubs and other organizations."

Visitors can stroll through 400 square metres of displays highlighting the ministry's lands, fish and wildlife, resource protection, and forestry programs.

On entering the tent, visitors first see a simulated wetland, complete with geese, ducks, turtles and a beaver. The display shows the importance of wetlands: as pollution and flood deterrents, as well as essential habitats for many species of plants, fish and animals.

Directly across from the wetlands is an open concept cage which houses a white-tailed deer, a skunk, a raccoon, a red fox and a broadwinged hawk. Here, landowners can find out how to improve their property to make homes for a wide variety of wildlife.

A biologist is available to explain the Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP), which enables groups of concerned citizens to take on projects ranging from improving wildlife habitat to monitoring local bird populations to developing educational displays on wildlife for community events and schools.

Next is a mini-barnyard beside a five-metre trout stream which shows such land-related problems as erosion and runoff that are encountered on the farm. A number of methods are demonstrated including shoring up sagging stream banks, fencing to restrict cattle access, providing gravel for proper spawning areas and planting trees for stabilization, showing landowners how, with a little effort, their streams can be turned into fine fishing spots.

The stream serves another purpose: showing the before and after effects of rehabilitation. Through MNR's Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP), the ministry provides both expertise and financial assistance to community groups undertaking such projects.

Next, the Grey County Agreement Forest's 50th anniversary is highlighted. Landowners can also get advice from professional foresters on the ministry programs available to manage privately owned forests for a combination of recreation, wildlife and forest production benefits.

The "Do You Know Your Fish?" exhibit gives visitors a chance to test their knowledge of the species of fish and how they're distributed across the Grey-Bruce area.

Toward the end of the exhibit, the Lands and Waters display contrasts the differences in digging a spring-fed, as opposed to a stream-fed pond. Here, Great Lakes shoreline residents can also find out about the different methods to protect themselves from flooding -- from building armourstone walls to putting in steel pilings.

Demonstrations are being held every half hour on the outdoor stage in good weather and the indoor stage during inclement periods. In addition to local MNR staff, Bill Wilson, the animal curator from Springwater Provincial Park in Midhurst, talks about the ministry's rabies programs, and Woody the Talking Tree, the ministry's forest resources mascot, is also appearing regularly to make his pitch about the importance of wisely managing our forests -- with proper regeneration, thinning, pruning and harvesting techniques.

Scattered throughout the exhibit are 90 second video clips to supplement the displays, and ministry staff are on hand to answer questions and distribute literature at all times during the event.

The International Plowing Match is being held from September 15 to September 19, one kilometre west of Meaford on Grey County Road 12.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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RESOURCES REPORT

JASON
NR
-R26

October 1987

FISH AND WILDLIFE SHORTS

Rural rabies program beginning next year

After 20 years of research and field testing, Ontario has developed a system to reduce the spread of rabies outbreaks in rural wildlife populations -- and the first full-fledged control program will be launched next year in eastern Ontario.

Work on the system began in 1965 when Ministry of Natural Resources and Connaught Laboratories researchers started developing a vaccine and a method to distribute vaccine in a bait over a specific rural area. Wildlife, especially skunks and foxes -- the main rabies carriers in Ontario -- that ate the baits, would not be infected by existing rabies carriers, thus lessening the chance the disease would spread into neighboring areas.

Since then, Connaught has developed a vaccine and MNR has worked out the aerial distribution of baits from low-flying aircraft. This fall, the ministry will determine in field tests whether or not the bait should be in a plastic bag when dropped.

Researchers are still analysing rabies data to pinpoint the best location for next year's bait drops within the boundaries of the Ottawa-Carleton Region and counties of Leeds and Grenville.

Rabies has been a problem since the 1950s when the disease appeared in southern Ontario. In 1986, a record 4,212 Ontarians were treated for exposure to rabid animals.

Scarborough skunks get the point

How do you vaccinate a skunk?

"First, you live trap them, then cover the cage with plastic sheeting," according to Dr. Rick Rosatte of the Ministry of Natural Resources' rabies research unit. "Then you push a smaller live-trap cage into the first cage, gently squeezing the skunk down to the end. Remove the plastic sheeting, and simply vaccinate the skunk with a hand-held syringe. Apparently skunks in a confined area don't have enough room to flex muscles that control their spraying equipment."

That's what MNR researchers have been doing in a trap-and-release program to vaccinate skunks and raccoons against rabies in a 60-square-kilometre area of eastern Metro Toronto.

The live-traps are set in the late afternoon and checked early the next morning. At the halfway point in the program that began July 6, researchers have trapped and vaccinated 440 raccoons and 57 skunks. The 230 stray cats also trapped were released without being needled, along with a mixed bag of groundhogs, squirrels, rabbits -- and 20 Norway rats, four times the number captured last year.

Rosatte estimates that there are from five to 24 skunks per square kilometre in the area south of Danforth Avenue between Victoria Park and Warden Avenue in Scarborough and up to 43 raccoons per square kilometre, especially in the wooded areas close to Lake Ontario.

"We estimate we've trapped and treated 75 per cent of the raccoons and 65 per cent of the skunks in the control area so far," says Rosatte.

Does the squeeze technique for needling a trapped skunk work? Apparently so. The score at halftime: Vaccinators 57 Skunks 0.

Manitoulin hunters get extra day

On Manitoulin Island this fall, he who hunts and plans to stay, gets to hunt another day. Because of high deer populations, the Ministry of Natural Resources has extended by one day the traditional four-day deer hunting season in wildlife management units 43A and 43B.

The season this fall is November 16-20.

MNR deer biologists say the extension will provide an extra day's opportunity for the approximately 6,000 hunters who come to Manitoulin each year, and will help increase the harvest to keep deer numbers at levels just below the capacity of the range.

The island herd now numbers an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 deer as a result of mild winters and a selective harvest system. The system allows the hunting of antlered deer, but requires hunters to enter a draw for a validation tag to hunt antlerless deer -- male and female fawns and adult does.

A record deer hunt?

Biologists are predicting another record deer harvest this fall in Ontario. White tails are so numerous, they are threatening their own food supplies in some areas. Deer are also returning to areas that haven't seen significant herds since the 1930s and '40s -- around Blind River, North Bay, and Kenora.

Thanks to mild winters and a selective harvest system, deer numbers have jumped from 100,000 to well over 200,000 in the past seven years.

Last year, a record 36,357 deer were harvested. Biologists say the estimated harvest this year will top 40,000 and that last year's ratio of successful hunters -- one in three -- will continue this fall and perhaps increase.

Hunters can increase their chances in the draw for a tag to hunt antlerless deer if they apply in management units where quotas are high. Since 1980, the number of antlerless tags available has been increased from 16,000 to 71,000.

"We want hunters to help keep deer densities just below the carrying capacity of the range," said Don Simkin, MNR's wildlife branch director. "That helps control overpopulation problems like disease and the wild fluctuations in numbers that occur when too many deer overbrowse shrubs and trees. That could destroy food supplies for several years, possibly causing a herd to perish from lack of food during the critical early spring period."

Eagles flying free

Calling all birdwatchers: Be on the lookout for two young bald eagles. Subjects are a male and female, aged 13 weeks, each with wing span of more than two metres. The birds' licence plate numbers are P-29 and P-30.

That's the description Bruce Duncan, a resource interpreter at the Taquanuyah Conservation Area near Cayuga, is passing out these days. The birds are the second pair raised and released by the Grand River Conservation Authority in an attempt to bring back the birds that were once a common sight along Lake Erie.

The licences are actually grey vinyl identification tags wrapped around the leading edge of the left wing of each bird. Because the tags are at least 15 centimetres long, it's also possible to read the letters and numbers from the ground using binoculars.

Duncan said P-29 and P-30, released in early August, have remained near Cayuga strengthening their wings in preparation for the migration south, expected near the end of September.

His only worry is that the birds may not reach maturity. A bald eagle released last year was sighted near a chicken coop and shot by a 12-year-old farm girl.

"It's just too bad we didn't receive a report first," said Duncan.

Rural residents who sight eagles and are worried about attacks on small farm animals could put a roadkilled animal on a piece of cardboard and place it in a field away from the buildings, said Duncan. A scavenger by nature, the eagle would take the easy food and leave without causing problems.

Birdwatchers who sight any bald eagles should telephone Duncan in Cayuga at (416) 768-3288, or the nearest district office of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The raise-and-release bald eagle program is sponsored by the Grand River Conservation Authority, MNR, the Hamilton Naturalists Club and World Wildlife Fund.

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RESOURCES REPORT



January 1988

LOCAL HEROES

by Alison Butlin

For those of us tucked into office cubicles surrounded by paved paradise, the concept of conservation is a bit remote.

Why would someone choose to trudge knee deep through a wetland, or spend months painting a peregrine falcon, then give the portrait away? Why would a man celebrating his 77th birthday lay out feed every year for migrating geese and ducks?

It can't be for the pay -- there isn't any. Recognition? Very few ever come to the public's attention.

Yet the number of conservationists grows larger every year. In every corner of Ontario, people are quietly, diligently doing the work that protects the future of our wildlife. They are the heroes of our natural heritage, and they do it because they care.

The Ontario government showed its appreciation of 12 of this province's outstanding conservationists during 1987, when a monthly award was presented as part of a national conservation awareness program called Wildlife '87.

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Wildlife '87 commemorates the 100th anniversary of Canada's first wildlife sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan. The sanctuary became a haven for whooping cranes in 1887 and remains a symbol of determination and willingness to preserve a species.

The Conservationist of the Month Award -- given by the Ministry of Natural Resources -- encourages wildlife conservation by singling out exceptional individuals.

Think of Buckhorn, Ontario, artist Michael Dumas, Conservationist of the Month for December. He decided after many exhibits of his wildlife paintings that he'd like to do, what he called, "something meaningful."

He started painting endangered species; the fragile populations of whooping cranes, humpbacked whales, eastern cougars, peregrine falcons and others that live in Canada. Then he donated prints from his paintings to the World Wildlife Fund and Ducks Unlimited. The money poured in. To date, Michael's art has raised more than \$5-million for wildlife conservation.

"There's always a lot of satisfaction in creating something that people like, and every artist strives to paint better," Mr. Dumas said. "But more than anything, I paint endangered species because I care very much about what is happening to our wildlife, and I realized my work could help focus public attention on the issue."

Michael's best known work is a series of prints featuring 10 of Canada's endangered species, and the artwork for two Canadian postage stamps.

"Michael puts his heart into his art -- that's why it's so outstanding," Natural Resources Minister Vincent Kerrio said at an awards dinner honoring all the winners this month. "But he has always reserved a major part of both for the welfare of wildlife."

Then there's a man like Jasper Miner. He hasn't missed a day at the Kingsville sanctuary -- established by his father, Jack Miner -- since the geese came back in September. For more than 70 years, Jasper Miner has been watching, feeding and caring for the thousands of Canada geese that stop off at the sanctuary in southwestern Ontario twice a year.

As he celebrates his 77th birthday with his wife Edna and two sons, his dedication remains strong. "You have to experience it," he says. "We've spent our life doing this work because it is spiritual and practical. It's really a matter of finding out you belong in this work."

"The Miner bird sanctuary is a hallmark in Canadian conservation history," Mr. Kerrio said when Mr. Miner became conservationist of the month in April.

If you could measure dedication by the hour, Arnprior taxidermist Fred Girdwood would be a frontrunner. He has devoted more than 400 hours a year for 30 years to conservation projects such as rehabilitating Ontario's depleted wetlands.

"I grew up in the outdoors and I've always enjoyed hunting and fishing," says Mr. Girdwood, September Conservationist of the Month. "I knew that if I enjoyed it so much, I had to get involved. I saw the need and discovered people were interested in doing something."

Mr. Girdwood, as president of the Arnprior Fish and Game Club, has spearheaded numerous conservation projects over the years. Recently, he has been involved in draining beaver ponds and installing water control devices in new dams to control flooding.

Mr. Girdwood's projects have been encouraged and assisted by Ducks Unlimited, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and MNR's Community Wildlife Involvement Program (CWIP).

CWIP is a program in which local groups work together on wildlife projects. MNR supplies funds for equipment and materials, and expertise to the groups, once projects are approved. CWIP is one example of response to public enthusiasm about conservation. Right now, there are more than 300 CWIP projects completed or under way across Ontario.

MNR also works with groups to reintroduce extirpated species such as wild turkeys, control the spread of rabies and manage a deer and moose program.

To continue the spirit generated by Wildlife '87, Mr. Kerrio told the award winners that his ministry will sponsor a contest for schoolchildren to choose an official bird for Ontario. The contest is open to all children born between January 1, 1976 and December 31, 1978.

Of all the suitable birds proposed, the one most often selected as a result of the children's research will be chosen as Ontario's official bird. A winning entry will also be chosen based on the quality of the explanation in his or her entry.

The child who wins will receive a piece of artwork and a copy of the newly-released Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario. Entries must be received by January 31, 1988. Mr. Kerrio will announce the winning entry in a presentation during National Wildlife Week, April 10 to 17, 1988.

Mr. Kerrio also said that a policy will be developed to determine how wildlife will be managed for the next 20 years. He said consultations with major wildlife and conservation groups across the province will be part of the process leading to an approved policy.

"What I'm most excited about is something that wildlife '87 and the conservationist of the month program made obvious," Mr. Kerrio said.

"The recipients of the MNR award represent only the white caps on a strong tide of concern. If, together, we can channel that energy and resolve conflicts through co-operation, we will have a force that will accomplish wonders in wildlife and wildlife habitat management in the next 100 years."

The 1987 Conservationists of the Month are:

JANUARY

- o Lloyd Cook, a Barrie trapper, has a distinguished record in the study, practice and teaching of humane trapping. Mr. Cook is a director of the Ontario Trappers Association, was a member of the Federal-Provincial Committee for Humane Trapping, and is now chairman of MNR's Trapper Education Committee.

FEBRUARY

- o Doug Ogston, president of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) from 1980 to 1982, has been an active conservationist since he was a teenager in Copper Cliff in the 1940s. From 1973 to 1979, Mr. Ogston chaired the provincial committee that established a new moose management program and the highly successful selective harvest system.

MARCH

- o Injured and orphaned owls have received sanctuary and care from Kay and Larry McKeever since the 1960s at their Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation in Vineland, Ontario. The McKeevers are entirely self-taught owl authorities, and have written rehabilitation manuals and children's books.

APRIL

- o Jasper Miner, the son of pioneer Canadian naturalist Jack Miner is the current landlord for thousands of geese at his father's Kingsville sanctuary. The sanctuary offers a midway refuge for geese and ducks migrating between Canada's northern breeding grounds and the warmer climates of the south.

MAY

- o As the guiding light behind the first Breeding Bird Atlas compiled in Canada, Dr. Paul Eagles has inspired the research efforts of more than 1,400 Ontario volunteers. Dr. Eagles, a University of Waterloo professor of environmental planning and a keen bird watcher, began the mammoth co-ordination task in 1979.

JUNE

- o As the founding president of the Quinte Wild Turkey Association, Glenn Stinson has been instrumental in promoting the reintroduction of the wild turkey in southeastern Ontario. Working with the OFAH, MNR and other groups -- Mr. Stinson, of Brighton, Ontario -- has helped to increase turkey numbers, from extirpation at the end of the 1800s, to 2,000 within the past three years.

JULY

- o Marietta Lash of Stouffville, Ontario, has been secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Association for Humane Trapping for the past 10 years. Her accomplishments include: helping to draft humane trapping regulations under the Ontario Game and Fish Act, educating trappers about more humane traps, and making it mandatory for trappers to check trap lines daily.

AUGUST

- o St. Thomas area resident, Marshall Field, co-founded the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station in 1969. He also helped establish what became the Long Point Bird Observatory where more than 300,000 birds have been banded since 1959. Mr. Field has been a parks superintendent, a public educator, and has monitored and banded bald eagles along the Elgin County shoreline since 1960.

SEPTEMBER

- o Arnprior taxidermist, Fred Girdwood, has devoted more than 400 hours a year for 30 years to conservation projects. Mr. Girdwood has been president of the Arnprior Fish and Game Club twice, and founded a conservation club in Chalk River. Wetlands rehabilitation, building duck boxes and nesting platforms, and conducting gun safety and hunter ethics courses are a few of Mr. Girdwood's many accomplishments.

OCTOBER

- o Claude Garton, of Thunder Bay, Ontario, is a world authority on northern Ontario plants, a conservationist and a botanist. Mr. Garton has donated his personal herbarium to Lakehead University, studied the effects of spruce budworm spray on birds and aquatic life, and taught hundreds of students about wildlife, fisheries and Indian natural heritage.

NOVEMBER

- o Rosemary (Walters) Cartwright of London, Ontario, has actively campaigned for the protection of half a dozen natural areas, wetlands, and southwestern Carolinian forest sites since the 1970s. Ms. Cartwright is a member of the McIlwraith Field Naturalists of London.

DECEMBER

- o Buckhorn, Ontario artist, Michael Dumas painted his first picture when he was six. He is a graduate of Humber Community College, specializes in painting endangered or extinct wildlife, and has donated prints from his paintings to raise more than \$5-million for wildlife conservation.

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RESOURCES REPORT

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June 1989

GOOD BOATING STARTS WITH SAFETY

Thousands of Ontario residents enjoy boating each summer. And, Ontario's Minister of Natural Resources Vincent Kerrio reminds boaters that good boating starts with safety.

"Before taking to Ontario's waterways this summer in a craft of any size, people should take basic steps to ensure their boat is as safe as it can be," Mr. Kerrio said.

This includes making sure all required safety equipment is on board, knowing weather and water conditions are safe for your type of boating, loading your boat carefully and, most importantly, making extra sure you and your passengers carry lifejackets, don't drink alcoholic beverages, and know the basic rules of water safety.

If you'll be in a boat this summer but are unfamiliar with basic water safety, the wisest thing to do is to take a boating course.

The Ministry of Natural Resources can help you find a course that suits your boating interests. MNR's Office of Recreational Boating provides information about boating regulations and facilities, and promotes boating safety.

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"The best way to make Ontario's waterways safer is to teach proper boating skills and accident prevention techniques. That's why my ministry helps fund water safety programs administered by both the Ontario Division of the Canadian Red Cross and the Ontario Safety League," said Mr. Kerrio.

MNR will provide a grant of \$45,000 to the Red Cross Small Craft Safety Program in 1989. The program includes instruction in how to operate canoes, rowboats and powered craft. Statistics show that people operating powerboats or any craft less than 5.5 metres (18 feet) long are most at risk to boating accidents.

To give these people the safe boating message, the Red Cross has five mobile demonstration teams that tour the province teaching boating skills, risk prevention and survival techniques.

Last summer, the mobile teams certified more than 1,400 people in various courses offered by the program. Team members visited public beaches, provincial parks, cottage areas and camps, bringing their safety message to more than 35,000 people of all ages.

Going directly to recreation areas and demonstrating survival and rescue techniques is doubly effective, because participants can begin practising the skills right away.

One lesson stressed by the team is the importance of wearing an approved lifejacket or PFD (Personal Floatation Device). PFDs are light, comfortable-fitting vests that resemble an angler's vest and allow full arm movement. Lifejackets, though bulkier than PFDs, are designed to keep a person's head afloat even when unconscious.

Both devices allow you to assume the Heat Escape Lessening Position, commonly called HELP by boaters. HELP involves staying still with your elbows in and your knees pulled to your chest to prevent needless loss of body heat and double your survival time. If you can climb out of the water onto your capsized boat, your chances are even better -- and you will be more visible.

HELP is the most important and simplest technique for controlling the effects of hypothermia, a lowering of the body's core temperature that results in a state of shock and in turn depresses normal body functions.

Even on the hottest days of July and August, short periods of immersion in moderately cool water can lead to hypothermia and prevent you from rescuing yourself.

The Ontario Safety League also teaches safe boating skills directly to the public in Ontario's provincial parks through its Canoe Safety Program. This year, MNR has granted \$14,000 to the league to continue instruction in the parks and in many of the ministry's Junior Ranger camps for young people.

These free, one-day clinics include demonstrations by qualified instructors and on-the-water personal lessons. This makes subsequent canoe trips into the park much more enjoyable because the canoeists have improved their skills and are more aware of the dangers.

Safe boating courses stress common sense and simple safety rules. Ten important rules to keep in mind are:

- o Listen to the weather reports before setting out in a boat. Be aware of changing weather patterns.
- o Let someone know the route you are taking and the time you plan to return.

- o Have the minimum safety equipment aboard as required by the Canadian Coast Guard. For vessels less than 5.5 metres long, this includes: an approved lifejacket or PFD for each person; two oars with rowlocks or two paddles; one hand-held bailer or manual pump; a horn, whistle or sound-signalling device; and the proper lights according to Coast Guard collision regulations.
- o Wear your lifejacket or PFD --especially if you are a weak swimmer or are venturing out in cold or rough water.
- o Load your boat carefully. Distribute the load for good balance and do not exceed the weight limit on the capacity plate attached to your boat.
- o Don't stand in a boat.
- o STAY WITH YOUR CRAFT if your boat capsizes or you fall out. Assume the Heat Escape Lessening Position (HELP) and signal for assistance.
- o Powerboats must stay out of the way of swimmers, divers and self-propelled craft such as canoes or sailboats.
- o DON'T DRINK AND BOAT.
- o Take a boating course.

Copies of Ontario's Boating Regulations and Information handbook or the Canadian Coast Guard's Safe Boating Guide are available through MNR's Public Information Centre, Room 1640, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-2000.

For more information on water safety courses, safety precautions, regulations or other boating matters, contact MNR's Office of Recreational Boating, Room 3303, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto M7A 1W3, telephone (416) 965-3238.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.



Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

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February 1990

MNR PROGRAMS FOCUS ON MAGNIFICENT CARIBOU

The northern reaches of Ontario are home to an elusive animal that few people know still exists in this province -- the woodland caribou.

In fact, it has been here for many centuries, and in significant numbers. It is estimated that 15,000 woodland caribou now live in the vast northern third of the province, north of communities such as Geraldton, Cochrane and Red Lake.

"My ministry is committed to learning more about this important heritage species, and to ensuring that it continues to thrive," says Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod.

To that end, the ministry is developing the "Woodland Caribou Management Policy." A draft has already been reviewed by several ministry committees, and scrutinized by field staff, so implementation could begin as early as 1991.

"The woodland caribou is a vital part of Ontario's natural history," says Raymond Stefanski, co-ordinator of the ministry's deer and caribou programs. "This policy will reflect that importance and will recognize the role the woodland caribou can continue to play in the social, cultural and economic life of this province."

As the draft policy demonstrates, there are many aspects to the management of woodland caribou:

- Their habitat should be maintained or improved. This will mean co-ordinating with other provincial resource interests.
- The size of the caribou population should be closely monitored to ensure that it does not decline but is maintained at its present level. Predators may have to be controlled if they begin to have significant effect on caribou numbers.

- Research programs will study the movements, habitat and productivity of woodland caribou, as well as the effects of predation and disease.
- Special programs will be developed, both to inform the people of Ontario about this important wildlife species and to provide the public with opportunities to view the woodland caribou in its own environment.
- The ban on sport hunting of woodland caribou, in effect since 1929, should be re-evaluated.
- Any management initiative must take into account the importance of woodland caribou to native people. Not only is the caribou an integral part of native tradition and culture; it is also needed for food and hides.
- Management initiatives will include native people in caribou management programs. MNR is developing a management plan for the Pen Island caribou herd that includes close co-operation of native people on both sides of the Manitoba-Ontario border.

Much of what we now know about Ontario's woodland caribou has been learned from studying the Pen Island herd. This herd of about 4,000 gathers in the extreme northwestern corner of Ontario and on the other side of the Manitoba border.

Each spring the herd is attracted to the tundra and coastal area of the Hudson Bay lowland to feed and calve. The herd also takes advantage of the persistent coastal winds to reduce the irritation of infestations of flies and mosquitoes. In late fall, the herd embarks on a long trek southwest into the forests of northwestern Ontario and northeastern Manitoba.

These caribou have long fascinated MNR wildlife managers. Why do they stage such a dramatic migration each year, when most woodland caribou favor short journeys between habitats? Why do they congregate in such large numbers, when most woodland caribou prefer to live alone or in small, isolated herds?

The need for a better understanding of this unique herd led to a three-year ministry study that's now being completed under the direction of MNR's Moosonee District. Biologists and technicians in the district captured and tagged 50 members of the herd, fitted them with collars that contain radio transmitters, then released them. The transmitters emit a signal that enables the researchers to track caribou movements from season to season. "This study is providing us with information on the size, range and seasonal distribution of the herd that will be valuable to future caribou management," says John Thompson, a biologist in Moosonee District.

"Aside from that, it's a wonderful opportunity to observe one of the most beautiful and rarely seen animals in Ontario trekking across an exotic part of the province that most people will never visit."

Another aspect of the Pen Island study involves native hunters from Fort Severn, who are co-operating with the ministry by handing over the jaws of the caribou they harvest. This enables wildlife managers to determine the age and sex of the animals being harvested; more importantly, it is the first step in the ministry's goal of actively involving native people in caribou management.

The Pen Island herd also involves the province of Manitoba. Because the herd spends part of every year in that province, an interprovincial group called the Ontario-Manitoba Caribou Management Committee has been formed and is currently working on a management plan for the herd.

Caribou research and management in other parts of northern Ontario occurs on a much smaller scale than it does in the Pen Island area, and the nature of the programs varies from district to district. MNR staff in some districts are involved in the relocation of some small caribou herds, in taking aerial inventories and in compiling miscellaneous information about woodland caribou sightings.

"Until now, management of our woodland caribou has been minimal," says Stefanski. "But once a new caribou policy is in place, all the various caribou programs across the north can be co-ordinated and strengthened."

A new policy should provide us with the direction we need to manage this valuable species well into the next century."

Editors: A fact sheet on the woodland caribou is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

March 1990

TINY ZEBRA MUSSELS POSE BIG THREAT TO ONTARIO WATERS

The zebra mussel, an unwelcome visitor to the Great Lakes from Europe, is here to stay, posing a big threat to Ontario's lakes and rivers.

"The zebra mussel is already a severe problem in the Great Lakes," says Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod. "We're appealing to the public to help us check the spread of this species as much as possible."

Zebra mussels are not a human health hazard, but they can cause extensive damage to property by attaching themselves to boats, water intake pipes and marine engines. They can also harm aquatic plants and animals such as clams and crayfish.

Large concentrations of zebra mussels are already attached to water intake pipes in Great Lakes communities on both sides of the border. In West Lorne, Ontario, a zebra mussel colony has reduced the flow into Elgin County water intake pipe by more than 50 per cent.

Scientists are concerned that zebra mussels may harm Ontario's fisheries because the mussels compete with fish for plankton, the food source for many native fish species. The mussels also filter sediment from the water, destroying the habitat of light-sensitive fish such as walleye. As well, colonies establish on walleye spawning reefs, covering the rubble and the spaces between.

The mussel, a native species of Europe, was discovered in Lake St. Clair in June 1988. Scientists believe it was introduced by a ship discharging ballast water picked up in a European port.

Since then, zebra mussels have established themselves in Lake Erie, the Welland Canal, Lake Ontario, and near Cornwall in the St. Lawrence River.

Scientists fear the mussels will move into inland lakes and rivers, hitching a ride on the hulls of boats travelling through the inland waterways from the Great Lakes, or in bait buckets carried by anglers or fishing boat operators.

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The Ministry of Natural Resources is urging the public to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels by cleaning mussels off boats when they are taken out of the water. Scrapings should be deposited in garbage containers and not left on shorelines where they can be returned to the lake by wave action.

"At the very least, leave your boat out in the sun for a couple of days to kill the mussels attached," says Doug Dodge, Great Lakes Fisheries Co-ordinator for MNR. "Boats also should be cleaned before entering inland waterways from the Great Lakes."

In addition, anglers using live baitfish should take care not to put water from one lake into another.

The zebra mussel is extremely fertile -- a single female can produce some 30,000 eggs annually. They are hard to detect at the larval stage and float freely in the water until they attach themselves to hard surfaces, building layer upon layer. Once the mussels attach themselves, they are extremely difficult to remove.

Natural predators of the zebra mussel include sturgeon, freshwater drum and carp, and some diving ducks. However, none of these species is present in Ontario in sufficient numbers to control zebra mussel populations effectively.

Other methods to control zebra mussels include chlorine, hot water and electricity, but in most cases these are either impractical or harmful to the environment.

Dodge says the mussel population may eventually stabilize as it adapts to the North American environment.

"At first, a newly introduced species multiplies quickly, reaching very high levels," he says. "Eventually the growth stabilizes and the population drops to a lower level, which it then maintains.

"This has taken place throughout most of Europe, with the notable exception of Scandinavia, where the mussels attained a high population level and have constantly maintained it. We don't know yet which route they'll take here."

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

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May 1990

FISHING IN ONTARIO

"Gone Fishin'" -- you'll be seeing those words everywhere now that the warm weather is here. Sport fishing is one of the most popular pastimes in Ontario, with well over three million anglers honing their skills on the lakes, rivers and streams across the province.

Ontario has superb sport fishing throughout the province, and it is a major source of revenue for the tourism industry. Anglers can match their wits against a variety of species, including walleye, rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, lake trout, salmon, perch, suckers, bass, pike, and the mightiest fighter of them all, the muskellunge.

Habitat -- it's the key

Fisheries management in Ontario comes under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Natural Resources. Underlying all MNR's stewardship efforts is the attempt to achieve sustainable development.

The ministry is attempting to manage streams, rivers and lakes so that they satisfy Ontarians' desire for healthy water systems and wholesome fish to eat, but also provide jobs and income and a variety of recreational opportunities.

The principles that will guide fisheries management in Ontario in the 1990s and beyond include an emphasis on habitat protection and rehabilitation, but the full range of management tools includes scientific research, public information and education, stocking, licencing and the enforcement of regulations.

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Success stories

Paying attention to habitat and using a mix of management techniques have already resulted in many fish community successes, most notably:

The Bay of Quinte:

Twenty years ago, this once-rich eastern Ontario fish nursery was in sad shape. Then urban centres around the bay upgraded sewage-treatment facilities. The result: algae growth decreased, water quality increased and the organisms that fish feed on began re-appearing. Today, anglers are getting good catches of walleye, larger walleye are showing up, and whitefish and other species are increasing. In the Bay of Quinte, natural reproduction is back in style.

Western Lake Erie:

By controlling the harvest by anglers and introducing a quota system for commercial fishing operators, the ministry has given the fishery in the western basin a chance to recover. Walleye stocks have rebounded and the catches are excellent -- four-kilogram walleyes are not uncommon. Best of all, improved spawning on the western shoals means populations of walleye are now spreading further afield into the central and eastern areas of the lake, to the delight of local anglers.

Southern Georgian Bay:

The creation of fishways and new sanctuaries, and the rehabilitation of streams around the bay have given rainbow trout a huge new territory in which to spawn. Best of all, other salmonids, such as brook trout, brown trout and Pacific salmon, are also spawning in streams that were once inaccessible. The ministry has also stepped up enforcement of fishing regulations in the last few years. As a result, runs of rainbow trout are fabulous. An additional benefit is the delighted crowds who gather at stream mouths just to watch the amazing spawning runs.

Lake Nipissing:

Since the mid-1970s, when an overabundance of perch ruled Lake Nipissing, the ministry has been paying special attention to walleye. MNR shortened the spring walleye season and established sanctuaries in key spawning areas. It also cleaned off spawning shoals with high-pressure hoses and established new shoals. It worked. Walleye populations have increased, perch numbers have dropped, and larger and older walleye are being caught, often weighing as much as 4.5 kilograms.

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Lake Superior:

How do you bring back the wild strains of lake trout in Lake Superior? MNR's answer: give them some breathing room. The ministry did that by limiting the harvest of lake trout, shortening the season and by increasing the stocking of nursery lake trout to take the pressure off their wild cousins. A successful program to control sea lamprey also helped. Today in Lake Superior wild strains of lake trout are beginning to re-appear, and anglers are hooking wild lake trout from one end of Superior to the other.

New season - new regulations

The 1990 trout season is off and running. This year, new regulations, including a reduction in the daily aggregate catch limit to five trout and salmon, have been put in place to help reduce fishing pressure on fragile stocks.

Anglers should contact their local MNR district offices for more information on these regulation changes.

By following these regulations, you will help ensure that sport fishing in Ontario remains among the finest in the world, and that the greeting: "Good fishing!" will be heard throughout this province for years to come.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources



July 1990

GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDS VALUABLE RESOURCES RESEARCH

Thirty-three research teams from across the province will be hard at work over the next several months on projects aimed at ensuring the future of Ontario's natural resources.

The projects involve researchers from seven Ontario universities and the Royal Ontario Museum, and cover a range of subjects from zebra mussels to moose and deer to white pine weevils. They are being funded through MNR's Ontario Renewable Resources Research Grants Program, which is providing a total of \$681,809 in grants for the 1990-91 fiscal year.

"Wise decisions about the management of our natural resources must be based on the best knowledge and information available," says Natural Resources Minister Lyn McLeod. "Ontario's research community has a significant role to play in helping to gather that information, and this grants program is an important way of supporting their work."

Each year, project proposals from across the province are examined by the Ontario Renewable Resources Research Review Board, whose members come from government, private industry, universities and special interest groups.

The board evaluates the proposals on the basis of scientific merit and relevance to ministry programs, then submits its recommendations to MNR for approval.

The 33 projects that are receiving grants this year were chosen from among 71 proposals reviewed by the board. Eleven of the projects are new; the rest are continuing from last year.

more...

"This grant is providing me with a means to make a direct contribution to the health of Ontario's natural resources," says Dr. W. Gary Sprules of the University of Toronto, who is one of the grant recipients. "That is important to me, both as a researcher and as a person who is concerned about our natural environment." The project that Dr. Sprules is conducting with Dr. Hugh J. McIsaac is a good example of how the program makes it possible to fill the knowledge gap in important areas.

The two researchers will study the impact of the zebra mussel on Lake Erie fish populations. The presence of the zebra mussel, a native species of Europe, was detected in Lake Erie only in 1988, but its potential to adversely affect the lake's important commercial fishery is great. Dr. Sprules and Dr. McIsaac will investigate the nature and extent of the problem so that measures may be taken to remedy it.

Other projects funded by the program also reflect the importance of Ontario's fisheries. For instance, Dr. John C. Kingston and Dr. John P. Smol of Queen's University are studying the effects of acid rain on fisheries.

Dr. Ed Crossman of the Royal Ontario Museum will study the effects of natural and human-caused factors on the distribution of fish populations, and predict what future effects will be.

Dr. D. Gordon McDonald and Dr. Christopher M. Wood of McMaster University will team up with Dr. John Gunn of Laurentian University to study a health problem affecting an outstanding brook trout fishery in northern Ontario.

Several of the projects focus on the need for a better understanding of our province's wildlife populations. Dr. Cheryl M. Pearce of the University of Western Ontario will provide information to help resource managers protect isolated areas of wildlife habitat in densely populated southwestern Ontario. A project by Dr. Douglas W. Morris and Dr. Thomas W. Knight of Lakehead University will add to our knowledge of small mammal populations in the Hudson Bay Lowland. Dr. John B. Theberge of the University of Waterloo will provide new information on the impact of wolf predation on the moose and deer of Algonquin Provincial Park.

Many of the researchers are working to benefit Ontario forests. They include Dr. Andrew Gordon of the University of Guelph, whose project is aimed at assisting in the regeneration of the valuable red oak. Dr. Sandra M. Smith of the University of Toronto will study the impact of white pine weevil infestations on jack pine.

more...

"This broad spectrum of projects demonstrates the breadth of expertise that is available in Ontario's research community," says Mrs. McLeod. "By using the grants program to strengthen the partnership between researchers and the ministry, we will be better equipped to confront many of the resource issues facing us today."

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

October 1990

CALLING ALL NESTING-BOX BUILDERS

Don't tell Dave Vincent he's for the birds. He knows it.

This fall, Dave and his friend John Haig of Gananoque will spend several weekends tramping around ponds and canoeing on waterways in Leeds County. They'll be checking out duck nesting-boxes -- better known as bird houses, to most of us.

The Ministry of Natural Resources hopes Dave and John and hundreds of other wildlife volunteers like them will answer a provincewide call for help in conducting Ontario's first survey of more than 2,000 duck boxes.

The survey, co-ordinated by MNR and the Long Point Bird Observatory, a non-profit research institute, begins in early October and ends November 15. Its purpose is to find out how many boxes are being used by wood ducks or other wildlife species, and how nesting-box programs can be improved.

"John went out last weekend and checked seven boxes he has put up," said Dave. "He found evidence of hooded mergansers in three, and wood ducks in the other four."

The ministry and the Long Point Bird Observatory are asking volunteers to record such information, along with details about surrounding habitat and offspring, and submit it to project staff. The survey hopes to learn the percentage of nesting boxes being used by wood ducks; the percentage used by other species; and how the location of the boxes affects their use.

Michael Biro of Willowdale, who for 14 years has closely monitored 40 nesting boxes he put up on his 200-hectare property near Kaladar, welcomes the survey.

nesting boxes - 2

"There are hundreds and hundreds of nesting boxes out there," he said. "It would be very interesting to find out what has been happening in them."

The construction of duck nesting-boxes -- which resemble large bird houses with giant entrance holes for ducks -- is a long-standing Ontario tradition. It began in the early 1900s, after wood duck numbers fell as a result of overhunting and the increased cutting of trees, especially hollow trees that provided nesting sites. To compensate for this habitat loss, wildlife lovers began nailing together and putting up wooden shelters containing a bedding of wood chips.

Over the past few years, conservation groups across Ontario have built and installed hundreds of nesting boxes under MNR's Community Wildlife Improvement Program.

Although the boxes are designed for wood ducks, they attract other duck species, kestrels, screech owls, grey squirrels and flying squirrels.

Volunteers involved in the fall 1990 survey will also be asked to take part in a second survey in March-April 1991.

A free information package about the fall 1990 survey is available by contacting Rosa Riihimaki, project biologist, Duck Nesting-Box Survey, Wildlife Branch, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto M7A 1W3, or by telephoning (416) 965-4252.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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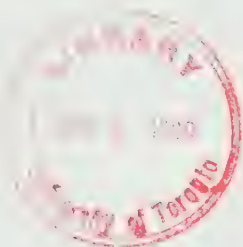
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Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

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November 1990

HIDDEN HEAT

by Steve Gray

This winter, while you're longing for hot sun, gentle sea breezes and glittering coral reefs, it might comfort you to know that coral reefs here in Ontario could be helping to keep your home cosy and warm.

It's true. Ancient underground reefs in Lambton County are used to store billions of cubic feet of natural gas needed during the coldest months of the year. Making sure the reefs are used wisely is one of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Natural gas is abundant, attractively priced and clean burning. Its use in Ontario has increased by more than 20 per cent since 1983. Although the western provinces produce more than enough natural gas to supply Canada's needs, the TransCanada pipeline lacks the capacity to bring enough gas into southern Ontario on the coldest days of winter.

"Underground natural gas storage is strategically very important to Ontario, because it ensures that we have enough gas on hand on the peak heating days in winter," says Natural Resources Minister Bud Wildman. "Natural gas storage in underground rock formations is safer than in large aboveground tanks, since nature stored gas in the reefs to begin with. It's also environmentally benign."

Ontario's pinnacle reefs are large coral fossil formations, not unlike Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The Ontario reefs date back several hundred million years to when most of southwestern Ontario was a large, shallow, saltwater sea.

Then, as now, coral reefs formed close to shore, in sunny, shallow waters. Eventually, as the seas alternately flooded and receded over millions of years, the reefs were buried under tons of sediment. Meanwhile, nature began to refine the molecules in nearby decomposing plant and marine life into two resources we use a lot of today -- natural gas and crude oil. In time, those resources migrated into the reef, where they remained until 20th-century man discovered them.

"There's a lot more to Ontario's petroleum resources than the crude oil and natural gas the industry takes out of the ground," says Ray Pichette, manager of MNR's fuel minerals program, which regulates and inspects more than 2,400 active oil and gas wells in southwestern Ontario.

Pichette points out that 100 new wells were drilled last year. But when oil and gas are discovered in a new pinnacle reef formation, the discovery of the reef itself often generates as much excitement as the petroleum resources found in it. That's because the oil and gas are non-renewable, whereas an empty pinnacle reef represents a renewable resource: a porous, dome-shaped rock formation covered by a harder rock cap, located far below the surface. In fact, the reefs provide a large, secure and inexpensive place to store natural gas.

By using wells that go down 1,500 feet, huge compressors and miles of pipe, Ontario's natural gas distribution companies -- Union Gas Limited, Consumers' Gas, through its subsidiary, Tecumseh Gas Storage Ltd., and ICG Utilities (Ontario) Ltd. -- store more than 180 billion cubic feet of natural gas underground, almost all of it near Chatham, in Lambton County.

"Basically, we operate huge natural gas warehouses," says Ross Parker, manager of gas storage at Union Gas Limited's Dawn Natural Gas Storage Facility in Dresden, Ontario.

"We draw gas from the TransCanada pipeline during the summer months, when demand for gas in Ontario is lowest, and fill up our 13 storage pools with up to 112-billion cubic feet of gas," Parker says.

Filling the reservoirs in the summer helps keep gas flowing through the pipeline from western Canada. That constant flow promotes more stable income for gas producers, which reduces the over-all cost of gas to consumers.

"On a peak winter heating day, about 70 per cent of all the natural gas being used in Toronto passes through our Dawn-Trafalgar system," Parker says.

heat -- 3

"The Dawn plant supplements peak heating requirements in southern Ontario during the winter, and also represents a large backup gas supply in case there's a problem in the main pipeline from the West," says Rudy Rybansky, chief petroleum resources engineer with MNR in London.

Natural gas use in Ontario is expected to continue to grow. That means more underground storage capacity could be needed, since the only practical alternatives to storing gas in the reefs is building aboveground storage facilities or laying another pipeline all the way back to Alberta, both of which would be very expensive and have a significant environmental impact.

This being so, there's little doubt that exploration geologists in Ontario will continue to be on the lookout for new pinnacle reef formations -- fossils that can live again as a great place to hide heat.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

December 1990

THE VALUE OF WILDLIFE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Donald Fraser, Toronto biologist and bird-watcher, rhymes off the costs of his passion -- known as "birding" to those in the know.

"You need a pair of binoculars -- that's anywhere from \$200 to \$2,000, and, of course, keeners have several pairs. Then a good functional field guide costs from \$15 to \$40. And most serious birders have a telescope or spotting scope on a tripod, which together range from about \$400 to \$2,500."

These kinds of figures are the raw material of a recently released study on the economic benefits of wildlife-related activities, titled *The Importance of Wildlife to Canadians in 1987: The Economic Significance of Wildlife-Related Recreational Activities*. Donald Fraser and thousands of other Ontario residents who watch, hunt, photograph and feed wildlife, and who work to protect natural areas of the province, spend millions of dollars pursuing their interests.

Those dollars translate into jobs and other economic benefits for the province. For 1987, the figures are 60,000 jobs and more than \$2.2 billion added to Ontario's gross domestic product.

Birders and other wildlife enthusiasts spend money on more than just equipment. Expenditures include items such as transportation, food and accommodation. Many Ontarians travel to provincial parks such as Long Point, Rondeau and Presqu'île to look for birds; and Point Pelee National Park is a Canadian mecca for birders. A whole tourist industry has grown up in local towns, such as Leamington and Wheatley, to cater to the visitors.

"In May, which is spring migration time at Point Pelee, you have to book a room a year in advance or you won't have a hope of getting one," reports Fraser. "And local restaurants open at 5:00 a.m. to feed the early risers."



The economic study is based on data from the 1987 Survey On The Importance Of Wildlife To Canadians, which was jointly funded by the federal and provincial wildlife agencies across Canada. The survey results were released last year. Since then, analysts have been translating the raw data into province-by-province statistics.

Residents of Ontario spent more than \$1.6 billion on wildlife-related activities during 1987. Hunting accounted for \$314 million, or 19 per cent of the total. The other \$1.3 billion was spent on watching and photographing wildlife, on wildlife organizations, and on natural area preservation.

This spending generated more than \$363 million in tax revenue for local and provincial governments.

The study points out that if wildlife in Ontario is conserved and protected, these economic benefits can be sustained into the future. Recreation related to Ontario's wildlife can therefore be considered to have a present value, much like a bank account, which provides annual "interest" payments in the form of the benefits the province receives. Based on the economic benefits revealed by this study, the present value of wildlife-related recreation by residents of Ontario ranges between \$3.7 billion and \$7.4 billion.

Donald Fraser is a good example of the long-term commitment of wildlife enthusiasts. As a teenager, he spent every weekend birding. Now that he's a family man in his 30s, he has other priorities. But his annual vacation is still spent in pursuit of birds. And his library of bird books, which he describes as modest compared with the collections of other birders, has continued to grow. Today it includes almost 2,000 volumes.

Copies of the study are available from Paul Gray of MNR's Wildlife Branch Room 3521, 99 Wellesley Street West, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3.

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REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

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Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

TIMMINS DISTRICT
JUNE, 1991



DISTRICT DE TIMMINS
JUIN, 1991

MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES!!

Most Canadians live normal, predictable and secure lives. We go to work on a daily basis and for the most part repeat a set pattern of job duties. Deadlines must be met, reports produced or certain quotas fulfilled. This ritualistic activity can continue until retirement dictates new enterprises. Sociologists point to this repetitious deportment as one of the causes of job dissatisfaction.

Now we all know that all patterns, rules and laws have exceptions. As I reflect upon my eighteen years of working for the Ministry of Natural Resources, it becomes apparent that predictability in the MNR job environment simply does not exist. Every day brings a barrage of new challenges, challenges that constantly tax the adaptability and skills of the MNR staff. We live in interesting times!

To be more specific, let us take a look at what happened in

TRÈVE DE MONOTONIE

La plupart des Canadiens mènent une vie normale, organisée et sécurisante. Nous allons travailler à tous les jours et nous acquittons de tâches principalement répétitives, en prenant soin de respecter les échéances, de rédiger les rapports ou de satisfaire les quotas. Ce rituel peut continuer jusqu'à ce que la retraite dicte la poursuite de nouveaux horizons. Les sociologues attribuent l'insatisfaction professionnelle à la monotonie du travail.

Nous savons tous qu'il existe des exceptions à tout comportement, règlement et loi. En réfléchissant à mes dix-huit ans au service du ministère des Richesses naturelles, je me rends compte que les emplois au sein du MNR sont totalement dénués de routine. À chaque jour, le personnel du MNR relève de nouveaux défis qui remettent en question son adaptabilité et ses habiletés.

Timmins District during the months of April and May 1991.

To everyone's surprise spring came early and the alternating slow and fast melts minimized the chances of major flooding on the Mattagami River. River watchers breathed a sigh of relief and the MNR flood and emergency plan was returned to "binder heaven." This action was proven premature!

The Timmins economy has and will continue to be dependant on mining and logging as the primary industries. Mining, unlike the forest industry, is not a renewable resource and produces certain by-products such as tailings that can have a negative impact on the environment. The Matchewan tailings spill in the Montreal River is a case in point.

What people do not realize is that tailings containment areas dot the landscape around Timmins and are estimated to contain upwards of 400 million tonnes of tailings. Abandonment, time and erosion can contribute to failures. Such a failure happened on Monday April 8, 1991 at the ERG Resources tailings area in Tisdale Township.

ERG Resources, an Australian based company, had made national headlines with their gold recovery project in the Timmins area. The company strongly believed that old tailings areas could be reprocessed in order to extract gold that earlier levels of mining technology had left behind. To back up their claim, the group built a

Cela suffit à nous garder sur le qui-vive!

Pour mieux comprendre, regardons ce qui s'est produit au niveau du district de Timmins en avril et en Mai 1991.

Cette année, l'arrivée précoce du printemps a surpris tout le monde. L'alternance de dégel lent et rapide a minimisé les risques d'inondations importantes de la rivière Mattagami. Les observateurs de la rivière ont soupiré d'aise et le plan d'urgence du MNR en cas d'inondation a pu être rangé en raison de sa prématurité!

L'économie de Timmins gravitait autour des industries primaires des mines et du bois, situation qui continue de s'appliquer encore de nos jours. Or, l'industrie des mines, contrairement à celle de l'exploitation forestière, n'est pas renouvelable. Certains de ses sous-produits tels que des résidus miniers peuvent entraîner des répercussions écologiques négatives. Il suffit simplement de penser au déversement accidentel de la Matachewan dans la rivière Montréal.

Les gens ignorent qu'environ 400 millions de tonnes de résidus jonchent le paysage de la région de Timmins. L'abandon, le temps et l'érosion peuvent contribuer aux problèmes de gestion de ces résidus. Un incident de cette nature s'est produit le lundi 8 avril 1991 au bassin de résidus de la

processing infrastructure worth over a hundred million dollars. Unfortunately, the company experienced numerous setbacks. These were mainly due to unproven equipment and the limits imposed by long cold northern winters. To make a long story short, the company declared financial failure and retreated to the land down under.

In its retreat, the company failed to stabilize the tailings area and three major breaks occurred in the containment ponds. This resulted in tailings entering the headwaters of the Porcupine River. With visions of the Matachewan incident in mind, Timmins District quickly called together an inter-ministerial committee composed of the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Labour, and the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority.

Since ERG Resources no longer had offices or funds in Canada, communication with the company was carried out through their representative, a legal firm in Toronto. It was quickly established that ERG Resources would take no actions regarding any remedial work at the tailings site. The committee had three priorities: stop the tailings entering the watercourse, take steps in order to prevent the problem from happening again and formulate a strategy to deal with tailings already in the River.

compagnie ERG Resources situé dans le canton de Tisdale.

La ERG Resources, compagnie dont le siège social est situé en Australie, avait défrayé les manchettes nationales avec sa découverte d'un filon d'or dans la région de Timmins. La compagnie était convaincue que les terrains d'extraction abandonnés pouvaient être exploités à nouveau pour extraire le minerai d'or encore enfoui grâce à des outils à la fine pointe de la technologie. Pour appuyer ses revendications, la compagnie avait instauré une infrastructure de plus de cent millions de dollars pour traiter le minerai. La ERG Resources a malheureusement connu de nombreux problèmes découlant principalement de son utilisation de pièces d'équipement qui n'avaient pas encore démontré leur efficacité et des contraintes imposées par la rigueur de nos longs hivers nordiques. Elle a donc dû déclarer faillite et retourner d'où elle venait.

Avant de partir, la compagnie a négligé de stabiliser les terrains de résidus et trois déversements importants s'y sont produits, causant l'infiltration de résidus mimiers dans les eaux de la rivière Porcupine. Encore sous le choc de l'incident Matachewan, le district de Timmins a rapidement institué un comité interministériel composé du ministère de l'Environnement, du ministère du développement du Nord et des Mines, du ministère du Travail

A title search of the land revealed that Pamour Inc. was the landowner and that this company was in turn owned by Royal Oak Resources based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Following a series of emergency meetings, an agreement was reached with the company in order to carry out emergency repairs to the containment area. During this round of high level negotiations, MNR staff were busy documenting the spill zone, assessing damage to the fisheries, monitoring water quality, monitoring repairs and gathering evidence for possible legal actions. In short, we were in overdrive.

Just when tired employees could start to see a dim light at the end of the tunnel, a second spill occurred on April 15! This one was located approximately 50 km east of Timmins. The company responsible was St. Andrews Goldfields which fortunately was still in operation. Apparently, above normal run-off rates along with ice build-up in the containment pond resulted in a 50 foot wide breach in the wall. This released an estimated 68 million litres of cyanide-laced water into Driftwood Creek. The committee which was already dealing with the ERG spill, found itself doing double duty. Officials from the Porcupine Health Unit were added to the team since this area along the Driftwood River system contained numerous farms and residences. Initial water samples revealed high cyanide and copper which prompted the Health Unit to issue an

et de L'Office de protection de la nature de la région de Mattagami.

Puisque la ERG Resources ne possédait plus de bureaux ou de fonds au Canada, elle dû être rejointe par l'entremise de son représentant, une firme d'avocats de Toronto. Il est rapidement apparu que la ERG Resources ne se proposait d'entreprendre aucune mesure correctrice envers les terrains de résidus qu'elle avait laissés. Le comité a alors établi trois priorités, soit empêcher la répétition de cette situation et élaborer une stratégie qui permettrait de résoudre le problème causé par les résidus qui se sont déjà déversés dans la rivière.

Une recherche du titre de propriété a révélé que le terrain appartenait à la compagnie Pamour Inc., filiale de la compagnie Royal Oak Resources de Vancouver (Colombie-Britannique). Suite à la tenue d'une série de réunions d'urgence, une entente a été conclue avec la compagnie afin d'apporter les réparations urgentes qui s'imposent dans ce secteur. Au cours de cette ronde de négociations, le personnel du MNR s'est affairé à recueillir des renseignements sur la zone du déversement, à évaluer l'étendue des dommages subis par les ressources de pêche, à analyser la qualité de l'eau, à diriger les travaux de réparation et à accumuler les preuves requises en cas de poursuites judiciaires : nous étions partis en grande.

Un second déversement s'est produit par la suite à environ

advisory against utilizing water for human or livestock consumption. A further advisory against consuming fish flesh was issued when a substantial fish kill was noticed in Moose Lake and the Driftwood River. Again MNR staff proved up to the task. Work ongoing for one spill would have to be duplicated for the St. Andrews' area. I venture to say that all the midnight oil was burnt on this one!

It should also be noted that during this second week of crisis, staff were also setting up exhibits for the Timmins Sportsman Show. For the trivia buffs this is the longest running show of this type in the province and except for Toronto, it is the biggest. A total of 555 person hours had to be committed to the set-up, take down and manning the exhibit areas.

When all was said and done, everyone was looking forward to some R & R. Well, lets put it this way, we looked for the R's but, they remained hidden. Apparently, they were scared off by two major forest fires that started on May 20th and swept the area (Gogama 4 and Chapleau 12). These fires, the biggest to date, threatened a community and several hundred cottages. But then again, this is another story for possibly another time.

It is enough to say that Timmins District staff were "busy little beavers." Long and longer hours were the main ingredients of our daily existence. It was a trial by

50 km à l'est de Timmins, juste au moment où les employés commençaient à entrevoir un rayon de lumière au bout du tunnel. La St. Andrews Goldfields, compagnie responsable de cet incident du 15 avril, existait heureusement encore. Apparemment, un dégorgement au-dessus de la normale, de concert avec l'accumulation de glace dans le bassin de résidus avaient causé une fente d'un pied de large dans les parois du bassin, entraînant le déversement d'environ 68 millions de litres d'eau cyanurée dans le ruisseau Driftwood Creek. Le comité qui essayait déjà de conjuguer avec les dommages du déversement de la ERG s'est vu contraint de se dédoubler. Des représentants fermes et résidences sont branchées sur le système d'approvisionnement d'eau de la rivière Driftwood. Les premiers échantillons prélevés ont révélé de hautes concentrations de cyanure et de cuivre dans l'eau, ce qui a incité le Bureau de santé à émettre un communiqué de presse recommandant à la population de ce secteur de ne pas utiliser cette eau pour consommation humaine ou animale. Après avoir remarqué le nombre élevé de poissons morts dans le lac Moose et la rivière Driftwood, le MNR a renchéri en publiant un communiqué de presse recommandant de ne pas consommer la chair de poisson vivant dans ces eaux. Le personnel du MNR s'est encore une fois avéré à la hauteur de la tâche. Tout ce qui devait être fait pour conjuguer un déversement devait être répété pour celui de la compagnie St.

tailings and fire of which the outcome was never in doubt.

Ben Legouffe

Timmins Area

Andrews. J'irais même jusqu'à dire que les employés ont pratiquement brûlé la chandelle par les deux bouts afin de remédier à la situation!

Il ne faut pas oublier que pendant cette deuxième semaine de crise, le personnel s'est en plus occupé des kiosques montés dans le cadre de la foire Sportman Show de Timmins. Il est à noter que cette foire est, abstraction faite de celle de Toronto, la plus longue et la plus grosse de la province. Un total de 555 heures de main-d'oeuvre a été investi dans le montage, le démantèlement et la supervision des kiosques.

Il va sans dire qu'à la fin de ces activités, tous les employés cherchaient à bénéficier du repos bien mérité du guerrier, lequei n'a malheureusement pas eu lieu. En effet, nous n'avons pu connaître de répit puisque deux gros feux de forêt ont commencé le 20 mai et ont ravagé la région (Gogama 4 et Chapleau 12). Ces incendies de forêt, les plus importants jamais connus jusqu'à maintenant, ont menacé une communauté entière et plusieurs centaines de chalets. Mais ça, c'est une autre histoire.

Les membres du personnel du district de Timmins ont véritablement travaillé comme des petites abeilles. Même si nous vivions pratiquement uniquement pour travailler, nous n'avons jamais douté de réussir à conjurer tant ces incendies que le problème des déversements de résidus miniers.



Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

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July 1991

RECYCLING IN ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL PARKS

For Brian Peck, Superintendent of Presqu'île Provincial Park, the reasons for reducing waste at parks are simple. "Parks stand for protection of the environment," he says. "People expect us to recycle."

MNR's recycling program at provincial parks has been a resounding success. Peck reports that at Presqu'île, the first provincial park to implement a recycling program, three tonnes of cans, bottles and plastic were recycled in 1989, and five tonnes in 1990. This year Peck has already seen another increase in the amount of material being recycled and therefore diverted from the local landfill site.

"We have blue containers for recyclables at nine locations in the park," he says, "and we spend a lot of time talking to park visitors about the recycling program."

Presqu'île is one of more than 70 provincial parks providing recycling programs this year. Programs are being offered at parks wherever there are local markets for recyclable materials. These parks collect one or more of the following: newspapers, glass bottles and jars, metal food and beverage cans, and plastic soft drink containers. Beverage cans are most commonly collected.

The ministry's park recycling programs are supported by government and non-government partners, including the Ministry of Government Services, the Environmental Youth Corps, Ontario Multi-Material Recycling Incorporated, and the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators.

A new element in parks recycling is the Blue•Bag™ pilot program which is being implemented through a new partnership with First Brands (Canada) Corporation, marketers of GLAD bags. It's designed to help park visitors collect recyclables at their campsites. "GLAD is proud to be involved in such an important recycling initiative which can lead to the collection of high volumes of recyclables," says Jim Gracie, Marketing Manager with First Brands.

As part of the program, strong, leak-proof Blue●Bags™ are available this year in five parks -- Sibbald Point, Killbear, Presqu'île, Restoule and Pancake Bay. Parks visitors can use the Blue●Bags™ on campsites for storage of cans, bottles and plastic containers. Recyclables can then be easily transported to available park recycling depots or taken home and disposed of through community recycling programs. Empty bags will be collected and recycled by First Brands.

The Blue●Bag™ program is not the only pilot project this year designed to increase the amount of park waste diverted from landfills. At Presqu'île this year, Peck has also introduced a pilot composting project. Park visitors are encouraged to deposit food waste in the composters. The waste gradually decomposes into a rich soil.

Peck is testing a number of different brands of composters. "The containers must be animal-proof, produce a minimal odor, and not attract insects, in order to work successfully in a park setting," he says. Composting is also being tested this year at Grundy Lake Provincial Park and, like Peck, staff there are optimistic that a workable system will be found.

While the recycling program is receiving enthusiastic support, MNR is encouraging visitors to practice all of the three R's of waste reduction in provincial parks: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

- Park visitors can **reduce** by using washable, not disposable dishes, and avoiding the use of overpackaged products.
- Bags, containers, maps, brochures and trail guides can be **reused**.
- Visitors can **recycle** by participating in the Provincial Parks Recycling Program.

"In a survey of visitors to Presqu'île in 1988, more than 90 per cent said parks should reduce waste, and that they would participate in a recycling program," reports Peck. "Clearly this is something that both park visitors and staff strongly support."

EDITORS: A list of provincial parks participating in the Provincial Parks Recycling Program is attached.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 965-1245

Brian Peck
Presqu'île Provincial Park
BRIGHTON (613) 475-2204

1991 PROVINCIAL PARKS RECYCLING PROGRAM

PARTICIPATING PARKS

Aaron	Halfway Lake	Quetico
Algonquin		
Arrowhead	Ipperwash	Rainbow Falls
Awenda	Ivanhoe Lake	Rene Brunelle
		Restoule
Balsam Lake	Kakabeka Falls	Rideau River
Bass Lake	Kap-Kig-Iwan	Rock Point
Blue Lake	Killarney	Rondeau
Bon Echo	Killbear	Rushing River
Bonnechere		
Bronte Creek	Lake of the Woods	Sandbanks
	Lake Superior	Sandbar Lake
Caliper Lake	Long Point	Sauble Falls
Carillon		Selkirk
Charleston Lake	MacGregor Point	Serpent Mounds
	Mara	Sharbot Lake
Darlington	McRae Point	Sibbald Point
Devil's Glen	Middle Falls	Silver Lake
Driftwood	Mississagi	Sioux Narrows
	Murphys Point	Six Mile Lake
Earl Rowe		Sleeping Giant
Emily	Nagagamisis	Springwater
Esker Lakes	Neys	Sturgeon Bay
Fairbank	Oastler Lake	Turkey Point
Fitzroy	Ojibway	
Frontenac		
Fushimi Lake	Pakwash	Wakami Lake
	Pancake Bay	Wasaga Beach
Greenwater	Pinery	Wheatley
Grundy Lake	Port Burwell	Windy Lake
	Presqu'ile	



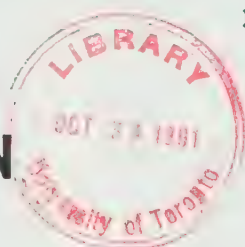
Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

CARON
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TIMMINS DISTRICT
OCTOBER, 1991

DISTRICT DE TIMMINS
OCTOBRE, 1991

THE ARGENTINIAN CONNECTION



LA FILIÈRE ARGENTINE

"No puedo entender esta parte del proyecto. Bueno, vayamos a tomar un cafe para despejarnos." Confused? Welcome to the club! These ambiguous pronouncements have been drifting out of the timber office for the last two months. The Ministry of Natural Resources has been informed on many occasions by the public about the complexity and incomprehensibility of its' planning language. Could this be a new level of timber "double speak" designed to confuse even the hardened planning specialist?

Curiosity and the smell of a story finally enticed this staffer to pay a visit to his "timber brothers" down the hall. The reward was a formal introduction to Ricardo Holpec and Gustavo Leban, two foresters from Argentina. Both, it turned out, are graduate foresters from the University of La Plata which is situated not far from the capital city of Buenos Aires.

"No puedo entender esta parte del proyecto. Bueno, vayamos a tomar un cafe para despejarnos." Confused? Vous n'êtes pas seul! Des déclarations de ce genre et d'autres du mêmes acabit émanent du bureau des ressources forestières depuis les deux derniers mois. Le public s'est plaint à de nombreuses reprises au ministère des Richesses naturelles de la complexité et de l'inintelligibilité de sa terminologie de gestion. Serait-on en présence de langage à "double sens" élaboré dans le but de confondre même le spécialiste en gestion le plus chevronné?

La curiosité et l'indictible attrait d'une histoire ont finalement eu raison de votre humble serviteur qui a décidé de payer une petite visite à ses collègues "des ressource forestières" dont le bureau est situé au bout du couloir. Cette visite m'a valu d'être officiellement présenté

These gentlemen are involved in a venture called the Argentinian Human Resources Development Project sponsored by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency). The project is the result of negotiations between the governments of Canada and Argentina. The forestry section of the venture consists of four individuals involved with various facets of timber management in that country. Two from the group are pursuing advanced studies at the Universities of Toronto and British Columbia. While Ricardo and Gustavo will be doing on the job training related to our forest inventory system and will be based in Timmins District for a period of three months. It is hoped that our methods in Northern Ontario will serve as a model for similar projects in parts of Argentina.

Such international agreements benefit participating countries in a variety of ways. Argentina will no doubt obtain additional expertise in the field of forestry. What will Canada and more specifically Northern Ontario gain from this agreement? Well by helping third world countries upgrade their staff and techniques in the art of managing forests, we are in a small way helping to improve the state of the "global forest". Also, this exchange gives us a unique window of opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of a country, its people and their various cultures which would under normal circumstances not be possible.

à Ricardo Hlopec et à Gustavo Leban, deux forestiers originaires d'Argentine, tous deux diplômés en foresterie de l'université de La Plata située à proximité de la capitale de Buenos Aires.

Ces deux hommes participent au "Argentinian Human Resources Development Project" (projet de perfectionnement de ressources humaines argentines) parrainé par l'ACDI (Agence canadienne de développement international). Ce projet est le fruit de négociations tenues entre le gouvernement canadien et argentin. Le volet foresterie de ce projet comprend la participation de quatre personnes qui étudient les diverses facettes de la gestion du bois de leur pays d'accueil. Ainsi, deux de ces participants poursuivent des études approfondies à l'université de Toronto et à l'université de Colombie-Britannique. Pendant ce temps, Ricardo et Gustavo suivront un stage de trois mois en milieu de travail offert au bureau de district de Timmins et examineront notre système d'inventaire forestier. Nous espérons que les méthodes utilisées dans le nord de l'Ontario sauront inspirer la création de projets analogues ailleurs, en Argentine. Les pays qui participent à ce genre d'ententes internationales en retirent un éventail d'avantages. L'Argentine se munira indubitablement d'expertise supplémentaire dans le domaine de la foresterie. Qu'est-ce que le Canada et plus particulièrement le nord de l'Ontario retire de cette entente?

This "window" is the real gift that Ricardo and Gustavo have brought to Timmins.

To the average Canadian citizen, Argentina conjures up a very limited set of cognitive images. To some the name brings forth memories of the rule of the generals and the Falkland Islands conflict in the 1980s. Others remember the stories of repression, the activities of the secret police and runaway inflation of 120%+ per month. Whatever the perception, Argentina is still an impressive piece of real estate and this became evident after several conversations with Ricardo. Argentina encompasses a land base roughly three times the size of our province. The country is divided into 23 provinces and has laid claim to approximately 1.2 million square kilometres of Antarctica. The population of 32 million is predominately Spanish speaking and consists of a mix of European and Native stocks. Geographically speaking, the country contains a variety of forest types from tropical to semi-arid, vast plains and extensive mountainous regions.

Natural forests in this country cover over 32 million hectares of the land base and during the last 20 years the country has shifted from an importer to an exporter of forest products. This is mainly the result of an aggressive stand conversion program which has seen 700,000 hectares planted with exotic species such as pines, poplars and eucalyptus trees. These fast growing species combined with year round

En premier lieu, en aidant les pays en voie de développement à perfectionner leur main-d'oeuvre et leurs techniques de gestion forestière, nous contribuons un peu à l'amélioration des forêts du globe. Cet échange nous donne en outre l'occasion unique de nous familiariser avec un pays, ses citoyens et sa mosaïque de cultures d'une façon qui, autrement, s'avèrerait impossible. Cette "ouverture sur le monde" constitue le cadeau réel que Ricardo et Gustavo nous ont offert en venant à Timmins.

L'Argentine évoque un nombre très restreint d'images cognitives chez le citoyen canadien moyen. Chez certaines personnes, le nom de ce pays est associé aux souvenirs de dictatures de divers généraux et au conflit des Iles Falkland des années 80. D'autres encore se souviendront des histoires de répression, des activités de leur police secrète et de l'inflation galopante de 120% et plus par mois. Nonobstant nos perceptions personnelles, il faut se rappeler que l'Argentine possède encore de nos jours une superficie imposante de terrain, fait que Ricardo a souligné au cours de nos nombreuses conversations. La superficie territoriale de l'Argentine Triple pratiquement celle de notre province. Ce pays est divisé en 23 provinces et possède les titres fonciers d'environ 1,2 millions de kilomètres carrés de l'Antarctique. Du point de vue démographique, elle compte 32 millions d'habitants majoritairement hispanophones, d'origine européenne et

growing conditions and high levels of precipitation results in rotation ages of 15 to 25 years. Canadian equivalents for pines and poplars range between 65 and 100 years. What this means is that a person could obtain three to four crops of trees from the same piece of land in his lifetime.

Like Canada, the Argentinian climate changes dramatically as we move, in this case, to the colder "southern" part of the country. This is Ricardo Hlopecs' area of work and will be the focus of this article. Our visiting forester is from the island province of Tierra del Fuego which translates to "land of fire". It was named by European explorers after witnessing the liberal use of fire by the local natives. The Island is situated at the most southern tip of Argentina and the provincial capital is Ushuaia which boasts a population of about 30,000 residents. Due to geopolitical realities, the federal government has encouraged settlement of this province in order to strengthen their land claims in and around Antarctica which is presently being disputed by Chile and Great Britain. These decisions resulted in a very young population and a booming electronics industry. Natural resources include oil, gas, a variety of minerals, forests and a rich ocean fishery.

Over one third of the island is forested with the remainder being mostly steppe (flat plain). Most forest are state owned and tree harvesting is carried out by the selective

indigène. Du point de vue géographiques, le pays regroupe une gamme de types de forêts allant de la forêt tropicale à mi-désertique, de vastes plaines à de nombreuses régions montagneuses.

Les forêts naturelles de ce pays s'étendent sur environ 32 millions d'hectares de terrain. Au cours des vingt dernières années, le pays s'est transformé d'importateur à exportateur de produits forestiers. Cette transformation est en grande partie imputable au dynamique programme de conversion des peuplements par le truchement duquel des espèces exotiques telles que le pin, le peuplier et l'eucalyptus ont pu être plantées sur une superficie de 700,000 hectares. Une rotation d'âge de 15 à 25 ans a découlé de la combinaison d'espèces et de conditions de croissance rapide ainsi que de niveaux élevés de précipitation. Au Canada, cette rotation d'âges pour le pin et le peuplier varie de 65 à 100 ans. Cela signifie qu'une personne peut soutirer de trois à quatre coupes d'arbres d'un même lopin de terre au cours de sa vie.

À l'instar de Canada, le climat de l'Argentine change radicalement lorsque nous "descendons" dans la partie sud du pays. C'est à cet endroit que Ricardo Hlopec travaille. Cela constituera la pierre angulaire du présent article. Notre forestier invité vient de la province de Tierra del Fuego, ce qui se traduit par "terre de feu". Ce nom lui a été conféré par des explorateurs européens

cut method with target trees exceeding 30cm in diameter. All tree species are classed as hardwoods consisting of important species such as Lenga, Guindo and Nire. The bulk of the crop is shipped to northern markets within the country. In order to manage this 600,000 hectare forest the provincial government employs four foresters and 16 technicians. Since all regeneration in the area is natural the primary duties of the staff is to allocate areas to be harvested, mark the trees to be cut, scale the wood and carry out the required inspections. Since money is a scarce commodity in Argentina, all long range timber management planning has been discontinued until economic vitality returns. Locally, these funding pressures have forced a delay in the implementation of the regeneration management program. This has increased the rotation age (age a tree can be cut that maximizes economic return) from 80 to more than 120 years. Regeneration areas are also threatened by free roaming cattle who enjoy feasting on young growth thus destroying the next generation of trees. Control of these animals is very difficult due to the strong ranching lobby in government. Consequently, in allocating areas for harvesting the forester must be aware of the locations of grazing areas and thus keep adjacent tracts small and isolated.

Transportation to the work site can be challenging due to the limited road network and the sorry state of the

qui avaient été témoins de l'utilisation prolifique du feu par les indigènes. L'île est située aux confins de la partie sud de l'Argentine et sa capitale Ushuaia compte une population d'environ 30,000 habitants. En raison des restrictions géopolitiques, le gouvernement fédéral a encouragé l'aménagement de cette province afin de renforcer ses revendications territoriales en Antarctique, territoire actuellement convoité par le Chili et la Grande-Bretagne. La jeunesse de sa population et l'effervescence d'une industrie électronique découlent de ces décisions. Ses ressources naturelles comprennent l'huile, le gaz, une variété de minéraux, des forêts et un océan prolifique.

Plus du tiers de l'île n'est qu'une plaine ou steppe. La plupart des forêts appartiennent à l'État et la coupe du bois s'effectue par méthode de coupe sélective visant les arbres de plus de 30 cm de diamètre. Toutes les espèces d'arbres sont classées comme bois franc et comprennent des espèces importantes comme le lenga, le guindo et le nire. La majeure partie de la récolte est envoyée aux marchés du nord du pays. Le gouvernement provincial emploie 4 forestiers et 16 techniciens pour gérer ce territoire de 600,000 hectares de forêts. Puisque toute la régénération de la région s'effectue naturellement, les tâches du personnel consistent principalement à allouer les zones de coupe, à marquer les arbres qui seront abattus,

government truck pool. It is quite common for timber staff to ask for rides from the logging companies or to simply stick the old thumb out. Field trips take on a new meaning when a visit to a work site can last for weeks at a time. For this reason, a tent and supplies are an integral part of any field kit. Wages for foresters in Tierra del Fuego are above the national average and can be as high as 7 million australes per month (\$700 US dollars).

Due to the islands' cool climate (-5 to 15 celsius), exotic species cannot be grown. Well established precipitation patterns keep forest fire occurrences infrequent with the average fire size rarely exceeding one hectare (sorry smoke eaters no action here).

Wildlife species include red and grey foxes, guanacos (similar to a lama), sea lions, penguins, condors and eagles. It is interesting to note that in 1943 moose and beavers were imported from Canada to the island. The moose failed to establish themselves. However, our friendly beaver considered it home and is now considered a nuisance species in the area. Could this be our legacy or curse to Argentina?

Following my "tê-tê à têtê" with Ricardo, I was left with the impression of Argentina as a country of exceptional beauty and diversity abounding in natural resources with a population hard at work preparing to meet the challenges of the 21st century. If Ricardo Hlopec and

à mesurer les billots et à effectuer les inspections requises. Puisque l'argent est une denrée rare en Argentine, toute gestion à long terme du bois est en suspens jusqu'à la reprise de l'activité économique nationale. Au niveau local, ces restrictions financières ont retardé la mise en oeuvre du programme de gestion du reboisement. Cela a augmenté l'âge de rotation de 80 à plus de 120ans (l'âge auquel un arbre peut être abattu de façon à maximiser sa rentabilité). Les zones de reboisement sont également compromises par le bétail laissé en liberté qui se régale en toute impunité de jeunes plants, détruisant ainsi la prochaine génération d'arbres. Le contrôle de ces animaux s'avère difficile en raison de la puissante politiques d'élevage prônée par le gouvernement. Par conséquent, au moment de l'allocation des zones de coupe, un forestier doit connaître l'emplacement des pâturages et garder les lotissements adjacents petits et isolés.

Le transport requis pour se rendre au site peut s'avérer ardu en raison du réseau routier restreint et du mauvais état des chemins aménagés par le gouvernement. Pour assurer son transport, le personnel forestier doit fréquemment quémander une place auprès des compagnies forestières ou encore "faire le pouce". Les inspection sur le terrain prennent une toute autre signification lorsqu'elles peuvent durer quelques semaines. C'est d'ailleurs pour cette raison qu'une tente

Gustavo Leban are representative of this new spirit, the country is no doubt in good hands.

Finally, the question must be put to our two Argentinian friends. What do they think of Northern Ontario and its people? They are in love with our scenery, impressed with our ability to organize, touched by our helpful ways and appreciate our clean towns and cities. On the other hand, they are amazed at our ability to drink beer, consider our coffee to be coloured water and can't understand why we eat supper so early.

Oh! By the way, you may still be trying to translate the first two sentences of this article. A loose translation would be: "I can't seem to understand this plan. Lets take a break and have a coffee". Some things are truly international!

Ben Legouffe
Timmins District

et des accessoires de camping font partie intégrante de toute trousse d'inspection. Les forestiers de Tierra del Fuego touchent une rémunération mensuelle supérieure à la moyenne nationale. En effet, celle-ci peut s'élever à 7 millions australes par mois (700 \$ américains).

Les espèces exotiques ne peuvent pousser sur l'île en raison de la froideur de son climat (-5 à 15 degrés celsius). Les précipitations solidement établies diminuent l'étendue des incendies de forêt, lesquels englobent rarement plus d'un hectare (ce n'est décidemment pas le paradis des avaleurs de fumée).

On y trouve de nombreuses espèces fauniques telles que les renards gris et roux, les guanacos (espèce qui ressemble au lama), les otaires, les pingouins, les condors et les aigles. Il est important d'ouvrir une parenthèse: en 1943, des origneaux et des castors ont été importés du Canada et apportés dans l'île. Les orignaux n'ont pas réussi à s'y établir, alors que les castors s'y sont tellement bien acclimatés qu'ils commencent à devenir une espèce nuisible dans la région. Les castors constitueraient-ils notre héritage à l'Argentine ou encore le mauvais sort jeté à ce pays?

Mon tête-à-tête avec Ricardo m'a laissé diverses impressions, à savoir que l'Argentine est un pays d'une exceptionnelle beauté et diversité, regorgeant de richesses naturelles et

dotée d'une population de bons travailleurs qui se préparent à relever les défis du 21^{ème} siècle. Si Ricardo Hlopec et Gustavo Leban symbolisent le nouvel esprit qui anime ce pays, ce dernier est indubitablement entre bonnes mains.

Nous avons terminé notre entretien en demandant à nos deux Argentins ce qu'ils pensent du nord de l'Ontario et de ses habitants. Ils ont répondu en disant qu'ils adorent notre paysage, que notre sens de l'organisation les impressionne, que notre serviabilité les touche et qu'ils apprécient la propreté de notre ville et de nos villages. D'un autre côté, ils sont étonnés par la quantité de bière que nous ingurgitons, considèrent que notre café ressemble plus à l'eau colorée et ne comprennent pas pourquoi nous soupçons aussi tôt.

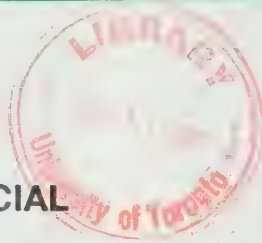
Si vous cherchez encore à comprendre les deux premières phrases de l'article, en voici une traduction libre: "Je ne réussis pas à comprendre ce plan. Arrêtons-nous un moment, le temps de prendre un café". Oui, vraiment. Certaines choses sont véritablement internationales!



Resources Report · Rapport sur les ressources

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TIMMINS DISTRICT
FEBRUARY, 1992



DISTRICT DE TIMMINS
FÉVRIER, 1992

HATS OFF TO OUR SPECIAL PARTNERS

CHAPEAU BAS À NOS PARTENAIRES

When was the last time you donated your valuable time in order to help restore or upgrade the environment? Most people, when asked this question, seem to be put at a disadvantage. They suddenly become preoccupied with the condition of various parts of their anatomy such as fingernails and hair. They also have the tendency to explore the contents of their pockets while doing strange gyrations with their feet. This however, is not the case for a determined and committed group of people and organizations that carry out the various Community Fish Improvement Projects (CFIP) and the Community Wildlife Improvement Projects (CWIP) in the Timmins area. A total of nine projects were completed in the district. These included such efforts as planting wild rice to enhance or expand production areas, establishing white clover in order to provide additional food sources for small game, rehabilitating walleye spawning beds,

À quand remonte votre dernière participation à l'amélioration ou à la restauration de l'environnement? Cette question semble rendre la plupart des gens nerveux. Ils commencent soudainement à se préoccuper de l'état de diverses parties de leur anatomie telles que leurs ongles ou leurs cheveux. Ils ont également tendance à explorer le contenu de leurs poches tout en exécutant les pas d'une danse quelque peu inhabituelle. De tels comportements ne sont toutefois pas observés chez les membres de groupes et d'organismes déterminés et engagés qui exécutent les divers projets instaurés dans la région de Timmins sous le programme de participation communautaire à la gestion des pêches (PPCGP) et sous le programme de participation communautaire à la gestion de la faune (PPCGF). Un total de neuf projets a été complété dans le district. Ceux-ci portaient notamment sur la plantation de riz sauvage pour renforcer ou agrandir les zones de production

building duck nesting boxes or simply cleaning garbage from access points.

A total of 121 volunteers donated 1400 hours towards the completion of various projects. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of the Timmins Fur Council, Les Aventuriers, The Timmins Board of Education program for physically challenged adults, R. Ross Beattie post secondary school and Mr. Gary Eden. We are extremely grateful for their hard work and dedication that resulted in the successful completion of the projects.

We would encourage more people and organizations to step forward and be counted in our environmental role call. If you or your organization would like to get involved please contact the Ministry of Natural Resources office nearest you. By working together as partners we can make a difference.

THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW

It should be noted that our Conservation Officers are celebrating one hundred years of law enforcement and resource management work in the Province of Ontario. These dedicated men and women are important members of a team of resource management specialists that make up the Ministry of Natural Resources. They spend long hours working in sometimes inclement weather in order to enforce wildlife and environmental legislation or to assist in carrying out various resource management projects.

existantes, la plantation de trèfle blanc pour augmenter les aires de ravitaillement du petit gibier, la remise en valeur des frayères de dorés, la construction de nids pour les canards ou simplement le nettoyage des points d'accès en les déblayant des déchets qui les jonchaient.

Un total de 121 bénévoles ont consacré 1 400 heures à l'exécution de divers projets. Nous aimerions souligner la contribution du Timmins Fur Council ainsi que celle de Les Aventurier, du Conseil de l'éducation de Timmins (programme pour les handicapés physiques adultes), de l'école post-secondaire R. Ross Beattie et de M. Gary Eden. Nous leur sommes extrêmement reconnaissants pour le dévouement et leur travail acharné, grâce auxquels ces projets ont pu être menés à bien.

Nous aimerions encourager d'autres particuliers et organismes à les imiter et à joindre les rangs de nos membres qui désirent protéger l'environnement. Si vous ou votre organisme êtes intéressé à participer à ces activités, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec le bureau du ministère des Richesses naturelles le plus près de chez vous. Ensemble, nous réussirons à laisser une marque de notre passage.

LA LOI A LE BRAS LONG

Il est à noter que nos agents de protection de la faune célèbrent cette année le centenaire de l'application

Last year, for example, the Timmins District Conservation Officers interviewed over 30,000 anglers, hunters, cottagers, landowners and recreationists. This resulted in numerous charges being laid under the Game and Fish Act, the Fisheries Act and the Public Lands Act. Also long gone are the days of small fines and wrist slapping of poachers, game hogs, and habitat destroyers. The courts now view these offences as serious and often impose heavy penalties on offenders. The following are some examples of recent judgements:

On December 16, 1991, Mr. Micheal Attard of Timmins was found guilty in Gogama Provincial Court of unlawfully hunting moose other than a calf moose without the proper adult validation tag. The gentleman was levied a fine in the amount of \$2,500, lost his firearm and his hunting privileges were suspended for two years.

Also on December 16, 1991, Christopher Gaebel of Brantford, Ontario was found guilty of obstructing a Conservation Officer in the discharge of his duty by delaying the investigation and giving false information. Also, he was found guilty of not producing a moose seal when requested by the officer. His fine totalled \$4,250 along with a one year suspension of hunting privileges.

Finally, on January 15, 1992, The Timmins Provincial Court found Raymond Courchesne (Trillium Motel) of Porcupine, Ontario guilty of depositing fill on the "shorelands" of Bob's Lake, in Whitney

des lois et de la gestion des ressources dans la province d'Ontario. Ces hommes et ces femmes jouent un rôle important à titre de membres d'une équipe de spécialistes en gestion des ressources au service du ministère des Richesses naturelles. Ils passent de longues heures à travailler dans un climat quelquefois rigoureux, et ce, afin de faire respecter les lois régissant la faune et l'environnement et d'aider à exécuter les divers projets de gestion des ressources. Ainsi, au cours de l'année dernière, les agents de la protection de la faune ont questionné plus de 30 000 pêcheurs, chasseurs, propriétaires ou locataires de chalets ou encore vacanciers, ce qui a mené à de nombreuses mises en accusations octroyées en vertu de la Loi sur la chasse et la pêche, de la Loi sur la pêche et de la Loi sur les terres publiques. Finie l'époque où les braconniers (pêche et gibier) et les pollueurs écologiques n'écopaient que d'une petite amende et d'un coup de mouchoir sur le bout des doigts. Les tribunaux considèrent désormais ces infractions comme graves et imposent souvent de lourdes amendes aux contrevenants. Jetons un coup d'oeil aux récents verdicts en la matière:

Le 16 décembre 1991, la Cour provinciale a trouvé M. Michael Attard, résident de Timmins, coupable d'avoir chassé illégalement un orignal (autre qu'un veau) sans détenir une vignette de validation adéquate. L'inculpé a écopé d'une amende de 2 500 \$, s'est fait saisir son arme et ses privilèges de chasse ont été suspendus pour les deux

Township, without the authority of a work permit required under the Public Lands Act. A \$1,000 fine was levied along with a court order requiring Mr. Courchesne to remove all the fill at his own expense, after obtaining a Work Permit from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It is quite apparent from the court judgements listed above that the protection of our natural resources and the environment on which they are located is now a serious matter. We all can help by doing our share in keeping it clean, obeying the law and reporting those who are intent on destroying it (Crime Stoppers 268-8477). To all Conservation Officers in the Province "keep up the good work".

TIMMINS DISTRICT WINS "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" AWARD

It wasn't the Hollywood award extravaganza! However, our Geographical Information System staff did come away big winners at the recent ESRI-Canada 1991 National User Conference in Toronto. Their poster display was drawn up utilizing the ARCPlot visual and data display system and left no doubt in everyones mind as to who should be awarded the "Peoples Choice" award.

The poster was based on the 1991 Gogama fire which was reported on May 20th, 1991, burned for seventy six days and consumed 3,139 hectares. The Geographical Information System located in Timmins was utilized

prochaines années.

M. Christopher Gaebel de Brantford (Ontario) a également été reconnu coupable le 16 décembre 1991 d'avoir empêché un agent de protection de la faune d'exercer ses fonctions en retardant le déroulement de l'enquête en communiquant de faux renseignements. Il a en outre été reconnu coupables de n'avoir pas produit de vignette d'original à la demande dudit agent. Il a écopé d'un total de 4 250 \$ d'amendes en plus de voir ses privilèges de chasses suspendus pendant un an.

Finalement, le 15 janvier 1992, la Cour provinciale de l'Ontario a reconnu Raymond Courchesne (Trillium Motel) de Porcupine (Ontario), coupable d'avoir déversé du remblai sur les "rives" de Bob's Lake, canton de Whitney, sans détenir de permis de travail, conformément aux clauses de la Loi sur les terres publiques. M. Courchesne a écopé d'une amende de 1 000 \$ et doit également se plier à une ordonnance de la Cour exigeant qu'il déblaie à ses frais ledit terrain des remblais qu'il y a déversés, après avoir obtenu un permis de travail du ministère des Richesses naturelles.

Les jugements précités démontrent assez clairement que la protection de nos ressources naturelles et de l'environnement dans lequel elles se trouvent est devenue un sujet sérieux. Nous pouvons tous contribuer positivement en faisant notre part pour assurer la propreté des lieux, en respectant les règlements et en signalant aux autorités toutes personnes contrevenant aux lois (Échec au crime : 268-8477).

by staff in order to complement their decision and support efforts during the emergency. The winning display consisted of 3 maps with associated descriptions and tables.

The first map titled "Fire Intelligence" visually represented values such as roads, buildings, cabins, nesting sites and moose feeding areas. From this information fire managers could set priorities in dispatching fire fighting resources to protect the identified values. The second map identified the forest fire fuel classes in the area. This information assisted fire staff in improving their predictions of possible fire behaviour thus allowing time to move firefighters to potential problem areas. The final map or product, as we like to call it, was produced after the fire and displayed fire losses. The fire destroyed 10 hectares of moose aquatic feeding areas and 171,981 cubic meters of merchantable timber. This report was very valuable in updating the Forest Resources Inventory which is necessary to forest companies in producing annual and five year timber management plans.

Such results is an indication that Timmins District is well on its way towards becoming a leader in resource management utilizing leading edge technology. Who knows, maybe Hollywood is not that far away!

À tous les agents de protection de la faune de la province, nous disons "Continuez votre excellent travail".

LE DISTRICT DE TIMMINS SE MÉRITE LE PRIX "PEOPLE CHOICE"

Non, il ne s'agit pas d'une spectaculaire remise de prix d'Hollywood! Toutefois, le personnel du système géomatique s'est mérité le prix lors de la conférence nationale des utilisateurs "ESRI Canada 1991" tenue récemment à Toronto. Le thème de leur affiche illustre le système d'affichage visuel de données ARCPLT. Le choix des récipiendaires du prix "People's Choice" était unanime. Le thème de l'affiche portait sur l'incendie de forêt signalé le 20 mai 1991 dans la région de Gogama. Ce feu a fait rage pendant soixante-seize jours et a réduit 3 139 hectares en cendres. Le personnel a utilisé le système géomatique de Timmins pour décider des mesures à suivre et appuyer les efforts déployés pendant l'état d'urgence. Le panneau explicatif comprenait trois cartes avec descriptions et tableaux.

La première carte s'intitulait "Fire Intelligence" et représentait visuellement les richesses de la zone atteinte, à savoir les routes, les édifices, les cabanes, les aires de nidification et les aires de ravitaillement des originaux. Les chefs de lutte aux incendies ont pu utiliser

THE MOST DANGEROUS PROFESSION

Fire fighting, as we all know, is listed as one of the most dangerous of professions. Firefighters often put their lives at risk in trying to contain a variety of fire situations. At times, because of local conditions, risk factors defy calculations and any small mistake can spell disaster and loss of life. Good examples would be a fire at a chemical or oil processing facility, an oil well fire in the land mine infested desert of Kuwait or a sudden wind shift during a raging forest fire in Northern Ontario.

Most "smoke eaters" accept the danger and would rather do nothing else. They call it living on the edge. This "edge" became razor sharp last summer for several fire crews based in the Gogama area. It all started when three dangerous and armed fugitives decided to take refuge in the forest near Gogama. The Ontario Provincial Police after a hair raising chase finally cornered the individuals near a cottaging area. However, attempts to apprehend the three-some failed and one officer was wounded during the fire fight. The man-hunt was on! Police closed highways, evacuated campgrounds and cottages and called in special tactics staff from various parts of the Province. Gogama became an armed camp which looked like a staging area for a mini "Desert Storm".

During this period of time two forest fires were reported

cette information pour déterminer les priorités et assigner leur personnel de lutte aux incendies pour protéger les richesses identifiées. La deuxième carte identifiait les catégories de carburants forestiers de la région. Cette information a permis aux membres du personnel de lutte aux incendies d'améliorer leurs prévisions du comportement de l'incendie, permettant ainsi l'affectation de pompiers aux autres zones potentiellement problématiques. La dernière carte a été tracée après l'incendie et illustre les pertes causées par le feu. L'incendie a détruit 10 hectares d'aires de ravitaillement aquatiques pour les orignaux et 171 981 mètres cubes de bois d'oeuvre. Ce rapport s'est avéré un outil des plus précieux pour la mise à jour de l'inventaire des ressources forestières dont les compagnies forestières ont besoin pour mettre sur pied leurs plans annuel et quinquennal de gestion du bois.

De tels résultats prouvent que le district de Timmins est bel et bien en voie de devenir chef de file en matière de gestion des ressources grâce à son utilisation d'une technologie de pointe. Qui sait, Hollywood n'est peut-être pas aussi loin qu'on le pense.

LA PROFESSION LA PLUS DANGEREUSE

La lutte contre les incendies figure, comme nous le savons déjà, sur la liste des professions

in the area and it was believed that they could have been caused by the fugitives. For the fire response staff in Gogama the "game" took on a whole new twist. Now the Fire Response Officer had to allow for the possible attack from hostiles in his initial attack strategy. This of course had to be coordinated with the Ontario Provincial Police Command Unit. If the fire was located in a suspect location, special procedures had to be followed.

Can you imagine landing at a fire location knowing that you could be greeted by armed and dangerous fugitives who may want you for a hostage and your helicopter for transportation. Because of this possibility every fire response to a suspect location was backed up by a police special weapons team. As one fire fighter said: "Initial attack will never be the same since we responded to the last fire. As we started to scout the fire perimeter a black helicopter landed near our group and began unloading men dressed and painted in green with high powered rifles and tracking dogs. I wasn't sure whether to hang around and put the fire out or to call in and ask how many vacation credits I had accumulated".

Luckily, no confrontations developed and all forest fires were controlled before they could prove problematic. As for the fugitives, one was captured and unfortunately the remaining two took their own lives.

les plus dangereuses. Le personnel affecté à la lutte aux incendies met souvent sa vie en danger en essayant de contrôler une variété de feux. Il arrive même quelquefois que les conditions qui sévissent localement fassent grimper les facteurs de risques au-delà des prévisions, de sorte que l'erreur la plus petite peut se solder par un désastre et des pertes de vie. Songeons simplement à un feu qui ferait rage dans les installations d'une usine chimique ou pétrolifère, ou encore au feu qui éclaterait dans un puits de pétrole situé dans un champ de mine du désert du Kuwait ou à un changement dans la direction du vent alors qu'un incendie gruge les forêts du nord de l'Ontario.

La plupart des "avaleurs de fumée" acceptent les risques du métier. Ils appellent ça une vie excitante. Cette "excitation" a atteint son apogée l'été dernier pour plusieurs équipes de lutte aux incendie de la région de Gogama. Tout a débuté lorsque trois fugitifs dangereux et armés en fuite ont décidé de se réfugier dans la forêt près de Gogama. Après une chasse à l'homme mouvementée, la Sûreté provinciale de l'Ontario a réussi à coincer ces trois individus près d'une zone de chalets. Toutefois, les tentatives d'appréhension de ces trois criminels ont échoué et un policier a été blessé au cours de la fusillade. C'était le début de la chasse à l'homme! Les policiers ont effectué des barrages routiers, puis ont fait évacuer les terrains de camping et de chalets. Ils ont ensuite fait appel aux services d'une

escouade tactique provenant de diverses parties de la province. Gogama est devenu un camp armé s'apprêtant à recréer une mini "tempête du désert".

Pendant cette période de temps, deux incendies de forêt ont été signalés dans la région et la cause en avait été attribuée aux fugitifs. Pour le personnel de lutte aux incendies de la région de Gogama, les règles du "jeu" prenaient une tournure très différente. Le chef assigné aux réactions du feu devait désormais considérer la possibilité d'une contre-attaque à son approche initiale de la part de ces criminels. Le plan d'action devait être élaboré en collaboration avec les équipes de force tactique de la Sûreté provinciale de l'Ontario. Des mesures particulières devaient être suivies si l'incendie se trouvait à un endroit où pouvait se trouver les suspects.

Pouvez-vous vous imaginer atterrir dans un lieu en proie aux flammes, en sachant que vous pourriez y être accueilli par des fugitifs dangereux et armés qui pourraient vous prendre en otage et utiliser votre hélicoptère comme moyen de transport? En raison de cette possibilité, à chaque fois qu'une équipe de pompiers devait se rendre à un endroit suspect, elle était accompagnée d'une équipe de policiers spécialement armés. Un des pompiers a déclaré : "Le dernier incendie a définitivement changé notre façon de nous attaquer à un incendie. Alors que nous commençons à cerner le périmètre d'un incendie, un hélicoptère noir a atterri près

de notre groupe, puis des hommes habillés et peinturés de vert, armés de carabines de haut calibre et de chiens policiers en sont sortis. Je ne savais pas si je devais rester sur place et continuer à essayer d'enrayer le feu ou communiquer avec notre répartiteur d'appels pour connaître le nombre de journées de vacance que j'avais accumulées". Fort heureusement, aucune confrontation n'a eu lieu et tous les feux de forêt ont pu être maîtrisés avant de devenir une source de problèmes. Quant aux fugitifs, un d'entre eux a pu être capturé. Les deux autres sont malheureusement suicidés.



Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

June 1992

ONTARIO PROVINCIAL PARKS AND THE DISABLED

This year, for the first time, persons with mobility and visual impairments will be able to visit Ontario's provincial parks at a reduced rate.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has reduced camping and day-use fees by 50 per cent to encourage persons with these disabilities to take full advantage of park services and facilities.

Persons who have a Disabled Parking Permit issued by the Ministry of Transportation or a National Identity Card issued by Canadian National Institute for the Blind are eligible for the reduced fees. In future years, other groups may be considered for the reduced rates.

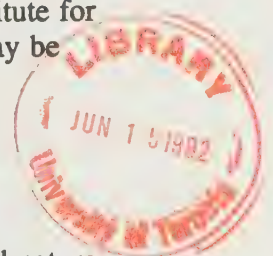
Access for the Disabled in Provincial Parks

For persons with disabilities, it is often difficult to enjoy natural areas. Wheelchairs may sink into sandy beaches or bog down on twigs or gravelled nature trails. For those whose eyesight is poor, a hike in the woods can be a frightening experience without a rope or railing to hold on to, and reassuring signs in Braille along the path.

But facilities are improving in Ontario's provincial parks. MNR is renovating existing facilities and ensuring that new facilities will accommodate the needs of a variety of persons with disabilities. Today, 88 of the 110 operating parks in Ontario's 261-park provincial system offer facilities for campers and day visitors with disabilities.

The first priority has been to provide accessible toilets and showers, and access to park offices. The second priority is to improve access to such facilities as park stores, nature trails, campsites and visitor services programs in key parks.

Many parks currently have wheelchair-accessible administrative offices. Several more -- Carillon, Fitzroy, Murphy's Point, Rideau River, Sharbot Lake and Silver Lake -- are scheduled for renovations this year. Seventy-five parks offer accessible comfort stations, eight have accessible interpretive exhibit buildings, and six have self-guiding nature trails for the physically disabled (Bronte Creek, Pinery, Awenda, Presqu'ile, Ouimet Canyon, Kakabeka Falls).



In 1992, the Ministry of Natural Resources will spend about \$2 million to make park facilities more accessible for persons with disabilities. The money comes from three sources: MNR's regular capital budget; a special program to prepare the parks system for centennial celebrations in 1993; and the Ministry of Government Services' Barrier-Free Access Program. A total of 30 parks will undertake barrier-free access projects. This includes parks that will be improving their current facilities for the disabled.

The program in Awenda Provincial Park demonstrates how the system is changing to accommodate persons with disabilities. Under the Ontario government's \$700 million anti-recession program announced in December 1990, funds were used to develop a barrier-free boardwalk through a cedar swamp, plus a comfort station with fully accessible toilets and showers.

In Algonquin Park, in co-operation with store operators, concessions at Canoe Lake and Lake of Two Rivers now provide barrier-free facilities, including washrooms.

The Provincial Park Reservation System

The ministry encourages persons with disabilities to use the provincial park campsite reservation system.

Using the system, you can call ahead to tell staff about your special needs. Staff can advise you about facilities, help you reserve a site close to accessible comfort stations or suggest another park that would suit your needs better.

Information about parks, facilities and how to use the reservation system can be found in the *1992 Ontario Provincial Parks Guide*, available at MNR district offices, Ontario Travel Information Centres, Telecommunications Device for the Deaf, telephone (416) 314-6557, and MNR's Natural Resources Information Centre, Room M1-73, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C1, telephone (416) 314-1717.

REMARQUE : Version française disponible.

EDITORS: Please note a list of parks with facilities accessible to persons with disabilities is attached.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Bruce van Staaldhuizen
Provincial Parks and Natural Heritage Policy Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-1109

Anne White
Communications Services Branch
TORONTO (416) 314-2133

The following is a list, by area, of provincial parks with accessible facilities for persons with disabilities.

Northwestern Ontario

Atikokan: Quetico (Dawson Trail campground)
Dryden: Aaron, Blue Lake
Fort Frances/Rainy River: Caliper Lake
Kenora: Rushing River
Nipigon: Lake Nipigon
Rainy River: Lake of the Woods
Red Lake: Pakwash
Sioux Lookout: Ojibway
Terrace Bay: Rainbow Falls, Neys
Thunder Bay: Kakabeka Falls, Sleeping Giant

Northeastern Ontario

Chapleau: Ivanhoe Lake
Cochrane: Greenwater
Englehart: Kap-Kig-Iwan
Hearst: Fushimi Lake
Kapuskasing: Rene Brunelle
Kirkland Lake: Esker Lakes
North Bay: Marten River, Samuel de Champlain
Sault Ste. Marie: Lake Superior (Agawa Bay campground), Pancake Bay
Temagami: Finlayson Point
Timmins: Kettle Lakes
Wawa: Obatanga

Central-Algonquin Provincial Park

Algonquin Provincial Park campgrounds: Canisbay Lake, Coon Lake, Kearney Lake, Lake of Two Rivers, Mew Lake, Pog Lake, Rock Lake, Tea Lake and Whitefish Lake campgrounds.
Huntsville: Arrowhead
Massey: Chutes
North Bay: Mikisew, Restoule
Parry Sound: Grundy Lake, Killbear, Oastler Lake
Penetanguishene: Awenda
Sudbury: Fairbank, Halfway Lake, Windy Lake

Southeastern

Bancroft: Silent Lake
Brockville: Charleston Lake
Cloyne: Bon Echo
Fitzroy Harbour: Fitzroy
Pembroke: Bonnechere
Hawkesbury: Carillon
Kingston: Frontenac
Ottawa: Rideau River
Picton: Sandbanks
Perth: Murphys Point, Sharbot Lake, Silver Lake

South-Central

Alliston: Earl Rowe
Barrie: Springwater
Brighton: Presqu'ile
Burlington: Bronte Creek
Campbellford: Ferris
Chatham: Wheatley
Collingwood: Craigeleith, Devil's Glen
Dunnville: Rock Point
Kirkfield: Balsam Lake
Lindsay: Emily
Midland: Six Mile Lake
Orillia: Bass Lake, McRae Point
Oshawa: Darlington
Owen Sound: Sauble Falls
Peterborough: Petroglyphs, Serpent Mounds
Simcoe: Selkirk, Turkey Point
Newmarket: Sibbald Point
Welland/Port Colborne: Rock Point
Wasaga Beach: Wasaga Beach

Southwestern

Chatham: Rondeau
Goderich: Point Farms
Grand Bend: Ipperwash, Pinery
Port Burwell: Port Burwell
Port Elgin: MacGregor Point
Simcoe: Long Point



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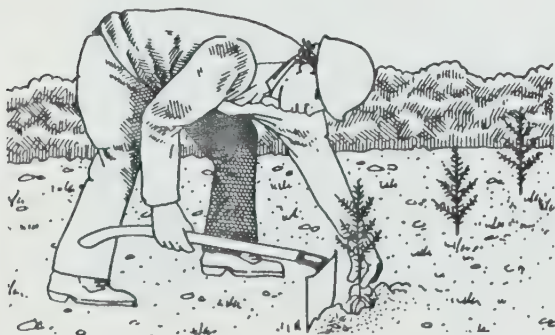
TIMMINS DISTRICT
JUNE, 1992

DISTRICT DE TIMMINS
JUIN, 1992

THE GREEN SIDE UP

This has been a particularly active spring for the forest management program at the Timmins District. The tree plant to date has been an unqualified success. The Timmins Crown Management Unit is planting more trees this year than any other year in recent history. Well over 400,000 trees have been planted on the unit. Of note in this effort, is the volunteer work performed by the students of Timmins High and Vocational School (25,000 trees), Scouts Canada (5,000 trees) and of course the district and regional staff of MNR (30,000). Efforts from staff on Arbour Day also resulted in homes for an additional 13,000 trees.

To all who contributed to this efforts many thanks from planet earth and its inhabitants.



LE VIRAGE VERT

Le programme de gestion forestière du district de Timmins a connu un printemps particulièrement actif. Le programme de plantation d'arbres a connu jusqu'à maintenant un succès inégalé. Plus d'arbres ont été plantés cette année dans l'unité de gestion de la Couronne de Timmins qu'au cours des dernières années. En effet, beaucoup plus de 400 000 arbres ont été plantés dans l'unité. Soulignons le travail bénévole accompli par les étudiants et les étudiants du Timmins High and Vocational School (25 000 arbres), les membres du mouvement Scout Canada (5 000 arbres) et, bien entendu, le personnel régional et de district du MRN (30 000 arbres). Les efforts déployés par le personnel dans le cadre du "Jour de l'arbre" ont permis de planter 13 000 arbres supplémentaires sur des terrains privés.

La planète Terre et tous ses habitants remercient chaleureusement tous ceux et celles qui ont participé à cette activité.



*Woody The Talking Tree helps public put roots down
Woody, l'arbre qui parle, aide le public à s'enraciner*



*secondary students hard at work
des étudiants du secondaire qui travaillent dur*



*MNR staffers set the standard
le personnel du MRN donne l'exemple*

SCOUTS DO THEIR BEST

PAROLE DE SCOUTS

Recently, a total of about 150 Scouts and parents congregated at a cut over area near Legare Lake along the Gibson Lake road. They came with a clear purpose in mind. It was to plant trees for Canada!

Following some initial organizational challenges, which is common when dealing with children, the group settled down and by early afternoon had planted 5000 trees. This was by far no small feat, considering the average age of the group was 9 years. Records also indicate that the scouting movement has planted over 66,000 trees in the Timmins area since 1980.



*Scouts plant our future
les scouts plantent notre avenir*

Récemment, un total de 150 scouts et leurs parents se sont réunis sur un terrain dénudé près du lac Légaré, le long du chemin du lac Gibson. Une vision précise s'imposait à eux planter des arbres pour le Canada!

Après avoir contourné quelques problèmes d'organisation tout à fait fréquents lorsque des enfants participent, le groupe s'est mis à la tâche et avait réussi à planter 5 000 arbres à la fin de l'après-midi. Ce n'était pas une petite tâche quand on pense que la moyenne d'âge de ces jeunes était d'environ 9 ans. Les dossiers indiquent en outre que les membres du mouvement scout ont



*the group that made it happen
le groupe qui en a permis la réalisation*

Quality checks of these plantations reveal excellent stocking (trees per hectare) and survival rates. Very few dead trees can be found. Overall, the standard could be compared to a contract plant.

These young people were not forced to plant trees. They did it on their own time and without pay. What drove them was the need to help improve our environment. Not many residents of our City can stand up and be counted for doing similar environmental deeds. We must realize that maintaining environmental standards depend on us, the "people". We are the ones that will make the difference!

The Scout promise, as I remember it more than 30 years ago, went something like this: "On my honour, I promise to do my best, to do my duty to God and the Queen, to help other people at all times and to obey the Scout Laws." These young people are doing their "best". Are we, as adults, doing ours?



planté plus de 66 000 arbres dans la région de Timmins depuis 1980.

La vérification de la qualité de ces plantations a révélé que le stock était excellent et leurs chances de survie très bonnes, très peu d'arbres morts. Règle générale, la moyenne d'entre eux se comparait favorablement aux arbres plantés par des compagnies contractuelles.

Ces jeunes gens n'étaient aucunement obligés de planter des arbres. Ils l'ont fait gratuitement et pendant leurs heures de loisir. Ils étaient motivés par le désir d'améliorer leur environnement. Bien peu de résidents de nos collectivités peuvent se vanter d'en avoir fait autant pour l'environnement. Nous devons nous rendre compte que la responsabilité d'assurer le maintien des normes environnementales nous revient à nous, les citoyens "ordinaires". Chacun d'entre nous peut poser le geste qui fait toute la différences!

La parole scout, telle que je m'en souviens pour l'avoir prononcée il y a plus de trente ans, ressemblait à ceci : "Sur mon honneur, je m'engage à faire de mon mieux, à accomplir mon devoir envers Dieu et la Reine, à aider les autres en tout temps et à obéir aux règlements scouts". Ces jeunes font de leur mieux. Pouvons-nous en dire autant qu'adultes?

THE GOOD SAMARITANS

We are all aware that the reorganization initiatives now being implemented by the Ministry of Natural Resources have created ripples of discontent among some staffers. Management has been very cognizant of these negative vibrations. In order to minimize this level of discontent, our leaders, to their credit, have gone to great lengths to keep us informed of all developments in the process. We have so many quick help phone numbers that a reorganization "help" phone directory could be produced.

All seemed to be going according to plan in the land of resource management until one day a lands technician returned to the office somewhat dejected and informed his supervisor that his job was the pits and that he had hit rock bottom. He went on to add that the only way to make things right again was to blow everything up.

The young and new supervisor, having just recently completed a course in employee relations, was convinced that this fellow's elevator did not go all the way up. Visions of a gutted and smoking MNR district office played havoc with his thought processes.

Following an emergency, closed door, meeting with the District Manager a detailed strategy was mapped out to deal with Mr. Brick Short Of A Load. The next day, all three met for an extended lunch at a local establishment. Once the

LES BONS SAMARITAINS

Nous savons tous que les projets de restructuration du ministère des Richesses naturelles ont créé des vagues mécontentement parmi les membres du personnel. La direction a très bien perçu ces ondes négatives. Afin de faire baisser le niveau de mécontentement, nos cadres on, il faut le reconnaître, déployé beaucoup d'efforts pour nous informer de tout nouveau développement touchant le processus. Nous nous retrouvons donc avec tellement de numeros de téléphone à composer pour obtenir de l'aide qu'il nous suffirait d'en dresser la liste pour obtenir un bottin.

Tout semblait aller sur des roulettes au pays de la gestion des ressources jusqu'à ce qu'un jour un technicien des terres retourne au bureau quelque peu déprimé. Il informa son superviseur qu'il avait frappé le fond et qu'il était découragé, rajoutant qu'il lui faudrait probablement tout faire sauter pour reprendre les choses en main.

Le jeune et nouveau superviseur venait tout juste de terminer un cours en relations de travail et était convaincu que cet employé était quelque peu maboule. Les visions de dévastation du bureau de district du MRN rompirent complètement de fil de ses idées.

Suite à une réunion d'urgence tenue à huis clos avec le chef du district, une stratégie détaillée fut élaborée pour composer avec ce-monsieur-qui-n'a-plus-toute-la-tête. Le trio

customary small talk had been dispensed with, our two "good Samaritans" proceeded to meticulously re-build the employee's ego and self worth. This was done using the latest techniques sent down from the Human Resources Branch.

The supervisor, with great sensitivity, informed the employee that he was aware of his problems and that he would do everything in his power to help him resolve the current crisis. He then nonchalantly slipped our bewildered technician a list of several phone numbers that he could call in order to obtain "additional resources".

Our staffer, overcome by the concern of these two individuals, thanked them for their efforts on his behalf. He also informed them that he had given the problem considerable thought and the best way to deal with it would be to get on with his job and chalk it up to experience.

Our two heroes returned to the office wearing Cheshire cat smiles of self satisfaction for a job well done.

To this day our technician still wonders why these two gentlemen were so concerned about an aggregate pit that had hit bedrock and the only way to get the required 3 to 1 slope would be to blast the sides with dynamite.



se rencontra le lendemain à un restaurant du coin pour un dîner détendu. Une fois les traditionnelles phrases de politesses échangées, nos "deux bons samaritains" commencèrent à reconstruire l'estime et l'image de soi de leur employé, ce qui pu être accompli grâce aux dernières techniques à la mode transmises par le truchement de la division des ressources humaines.

Le superviseur, avec doigté, dit à l'employé qu'il savait qu'il était prises avec quelques problèmes et qu'il ferait personnellement tout en son pouvoir pour l'aider à les résoudre. Il glissa ensuite avec nonchalance à notre technicien une liste énumérant plusieurs numéros de téléphone à composer pour avoir recours à "d'autres ressources".

Notre membre du personnel, abasourdi par tant de sollicitude de la part de ces deux personnes, les remercia d'avoir déployé autant d'efforts à son endroit. Il leur dit ensuite qu'il avait longuement réfléchi à son problème et qu'il en était arrivé à conclure que la meilleure façon de résoudre son problème serait de continuer son travail et de glisser ces déboires dans son sac d'expériences.

Nos deux héros sont revenus au bureau gonflés de la satisfaction du devoir accompli.

Néanmoins, notre technicien se demande encore pourquoi ces deux gentilhommes s'inquiétaient autant d'un puit d'extraction qui avait frappé le sousbassement et pour lequel la seule solution consistait à faire sauter les parois à la dynamite pour obtenir la pente 3:1 requise.

ACRONYMS... LOVE THEM OR LEAVE THEM

One day, at the District Office, a client asked the clerk for the required documents for a P.A.P. The clerk, being an authority on acronyms, knew that P.A.P. stood for a Personal Aggregate Permit.

Following the required payment for the permit, the client left the office in a very excited and cheerful mood. The clerk found this behaviour strange, to say the least. Since when are people happy about giving M.N.R. money? An inspection was called for!

A few days later, the technician visited the site and was amazed to find a huge asphalt plant producing at full capacity. Following a heated discussion with the operator it was realized that the permit requested was for a Portable Asphalt Plant (P.A.P.).

EXCAVATIONS PROVES EXPENSIVE

On June 9th, 1992 Michael Dobson of 216 McBride Street, was convicted in provincial court, of the offence of unlawfully dredging shorelands abutting the Mattagami River in Mountjoy Township contrary to the Public Lands Act. A \$500 fine was levied along with a Court Order to rehabilitate the area in question according to a plan submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

LES ACRONYMES... À PRENDRE OU À LAISSER

Un jour, un client se présenta au bureau de district et demanda au commis les formulaires requis pour obtenir un PEP. Le commis en question, un expert en matière d'acronymes, savait pertinemment bien qu'un PEP est un permis d'exploitation privée.

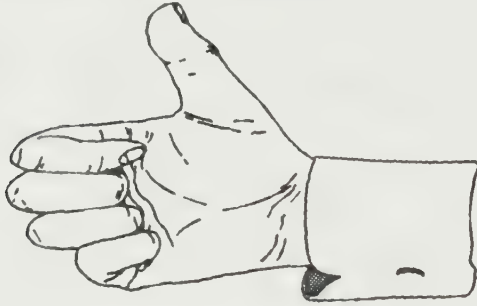
Après s'être acquitté des frais inhérents à ce genre de permis, notre client quitta le bureau très excité et de très bonne humeur. Le commis trouvait ce comportement pour le moins étrange. Depuis quand les gens sont-ils heureux de donner de l'argent au MRN? Une vérification s'imposait!

Quelques jours plus tard, le technicien se rendait sur les lieux et fut surpris de découvrir une énorme usine d'asphaltage produisant à pleine capacité. Après une discussion animée avec l'opérateur des installations, il fut découvert que le client avait en fait demandé un permis d'exploitation pour la production d'asphalte (PEP)!

DÈS EXCAVATIONS QUI S'AVÈRENT DISPENDIEUSES

Le 9 juin 1992, Michael Dobson résidant au 216, rue McBride, a été reconnu coupable en cour provinciale d'avoir illégalement dragué les rives contigües à la rivière Mattagami, dans le canton de Mountjoy, enfreignant ainsi les

When you work in or near water, remember, you require a Work Permit from the MNR.



clauses de la Loi sur les terres publiques. La cour lui a imposé une amende de 500 \$, en plus de lui ordonner de remettre le terrain en état, selon un plan soumis et approuvé par le ministère des Richesses naturelles.

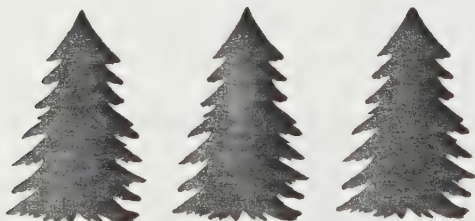
Ainsi, lorsque vous effectuez des travaux dans un cour d'eau ou a proximité, munissez-vous préalablement d'un permis de travail émis par le MRN.

PLANS GET THE BIG OK

The Timber Management Plan for the Romeo Malette Forest was approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources for implementation on April 1st, 1992. This plan outlines the detailed and site specific forest activities that will be carried out by Malette Inc. up to the year 1997. The document also lays out the general intent and strategies the company wishes to pursue up to the year 2012.

Annual work schedules for Romeo Malette Forest, the Timmins Forest and the Timmins Crown Management have also been approved by this Ministry.

The plan and work schedules can be viewed at the MNR district office on Riverside Drive.

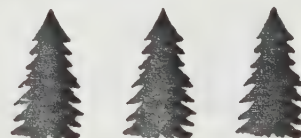


LES PLANTS SONT APPROUVÉS

Le plan de gestion pour la forêt Romeo Malette a été approuvé par le ministère des Richesses naturelles pour une mise en oeuvre fixée au 1er avril 1992. Ce plan explique en détail les activités forestières détaillées que la compagnie Malette Inc. pratiquera sur chacun de ses sites d'ici 1997. Ce document présente également l'orientation et les stratégies que la compagnie se propose d'adopter d'ici 2012.

Les horaires annuels de travail de la forêt Romeo Malette, de la forêt de Timmins et de l'unité de gestion de la Couronne de Timmins ont également été approuvés par le ministère.

Le plan et les horaires de travail peuvent être consultés aux bureaux de district du MRN situés sur la promenade Riverside.



ONE DOWN AND ONE TO GO

The Timber Management Plan for the Timmins Forest, Quebec and Ontario Paper Company, was recently initiated and is now well underway. This one year planning exercise will be seeking and encouraging public input during the various stages of its development. The planning team will also tap into the sage advice of the newly established District Public Advisory Committee. This plan is scheduled for completion by March 1st of 1993 and for implementation by April 1st, 1993.

The Ministry and company are looking forward to working with local residents and producing a plan that will balance the needs of the environment and the maintenance of a healthy forest economy.

MAP SALES PAVES ROUTE TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Proceeds from the sale of the Timmins District map resulted in four bursaries being awarded to local high school graduates. These bursaries will help these students pursue environmental studies in the resource management field at a post-secondary level. The winners of the 1992 bursaries of one hundred dollars each are:
Réjean Guillemette, École Secondaire Theriault
Kevin Graham, Roland Mitchener Secondary
Ricky Alberton, O'Gorman Senior Secondary
Christine Everall, Timmins High and Vocational School

ET DE UN...

Le plan de gestion de la forêt de Timmins récemment amorcé par la Quebec and Ontario Paper Company va bon train. Au cours de la période d'un an actuellement en cours, nous chercherons et encouragerons le public à nous faire part de ses commentaires tout au long des diverses étapes de sa planification. L'équipe de planification cherchera également conseil auprès du nouveau comité consultatif public du district. Ce plan est censé être terminé le 1er mars 1993 et entrer en vigueur le 1er avril 1993.

Le ministère et la compagnie voient d'un bon oeil cette collaboration avec les résidents locaux dans le but d'élaborer un plan qui saurait équilibrer les besoins de l'environnement et ceux d'une économie forestière saine.

LA VENTE DE CARTES GÉO. PAVE LE CHEMIN VERS L'ÉDUCATION

Le fruit de la vente de cartes géographiques du district de Timmins a permis l'octroi de quatre bourses d'études à des diplômés du secondaire de la localité. Ces bourses aideront ces étudiants à poursuivre des études environnementales dans le domaine de la gestion des ressources au niveau postsecondaire. Les étudiants suivants sont les récipiendaires de 1992 de ces bourses de cent dollars:
Rejean Guillemette, École secondaire Theriault
Kevin Graham, Roland Mitchener Secondary

The scholarship initiative is a partnership project created and administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Timmins District and the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority. Funding for the production of the map is obtained by selling advertising spaces to local merchants. Revenues generated from the sale of this product is then deposited by the Conservation Authority in term investment accounts. Income from the interest is then utilized to provide the scholarships to deserving students. As map sales continue, the size of these scholarships is expected to increase substantially in the coming years.

The Timmins District Map can be obtained at the MNR office on Riverside Drive, the Conservation Authority office on Cedar Street South and the Chamber of Commerce for \$2.00 plus applicable taxes.



Ricky Alberton, O'Gorman Senior Secondary
Christine Everall, Timmins High and Vocational School

Ce projet de bourses d'études découle du partenariat conçu et géré par le ministère des Richesses naturelles, le district de Timmins et l'office de protection de la nature de la région de Mattagami. La production de ces cartes a été financée par les produits de la vente d'espaces publicitaires aux marchands locaux. Les revenus ainsi générés ont ensuite été investis à long terme par l'office de protection de la nature. Les intérêts de ces placements sont ceux utilisés pour offrir des bourses d'études aux étudiants méritants. Le montant de ces bourses d'études devrait augmenter considérablement au cours des prochaines années, suivant la hausse de revenus associés à la vente de ces cartes géographiques.

Il est possible de se procurer une carte du district de Timmins au bureau du MRN situé sur le chemin Riverside, au bureau de l'office de protection de la nature situé sur la rue Cedar sud et au bureau de la Chambre de commerce moyennant un déboursé de 2 \$, taxes en sus.



RABIËS... IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK

Rabies threaten us all. Almost always fatal, it can infect humans as well as domestic animals and wildlife.

Rabies is a virus disease of warm-blooded animals. Although usually communicated by the bite of an infected animal, it may occur if the animal's saliva enters an open cut or wound. The virus then invades the nervous system and travels to the brain.

Most of Canada's rabies is carried by wildlife. Foxes, skunks, bats and raccoons are the main carriers. If your pets are infected by these animals, you may then be at risk.

It may take 2 weeks to 6 months for symptoms to appear. Rabid animals do not all behave the same way and it may be at times difficult to identify the disease. Two different forms of the disease can manifest itself, the furious or dumb or a combination of the two.

Furious rabies is when the animal changes behaviour, a friendly one becomes shy or vice versa. It may bite without warning at any animal or human and its voice may become hoarse. Later, the animal may become restless, excitable, startle easily, run aimlessly or become disoriented. Watch for a change in eating habits, develop excessive drooling, or weak hind legs. When this happens the animal is close to death.

With dumb rabies, signs are much less noticeable and the

LA RAGE...LE JEU N'EN VAUT PAS LA CHANDELLE

La rage menage tous et chacun d'entre nous. Presque toujours mortelle, elle peut contaminer les humains ainsi que les animaux domestiques et sauvages.

La rage est une maladie transmise par les animaux a sang chaud. Le virus peut non seulement se transmettre par la morsure d'un animal atteint mais également par le contact de la salive de l'animal avec une coupure ou une plaie. Le virus envahit ensuite le système nerveux et atteint le cerveau.

Au Canada, la plupart des cas de rage sont transmis par des animaux sauvages. Les renards, les moufettes, les chauves-souris et les rats-laveurs en sont les principaux agents de transmission. Si vos animaux domestiques sont contaminés par des animaux sauvages atteints de la rage, vous courez un risque.

Les symptômes de la rage prennent de deux semaines à six mois à se manifester. Les animaux atteints ne se comportent pas tous de la même façon, ce qui complique l'identification de la maladie. Ainsi, l'animal peut devenir agressif, amorphe ou encore alterner l'un ou l'autre de ces deux comportements.

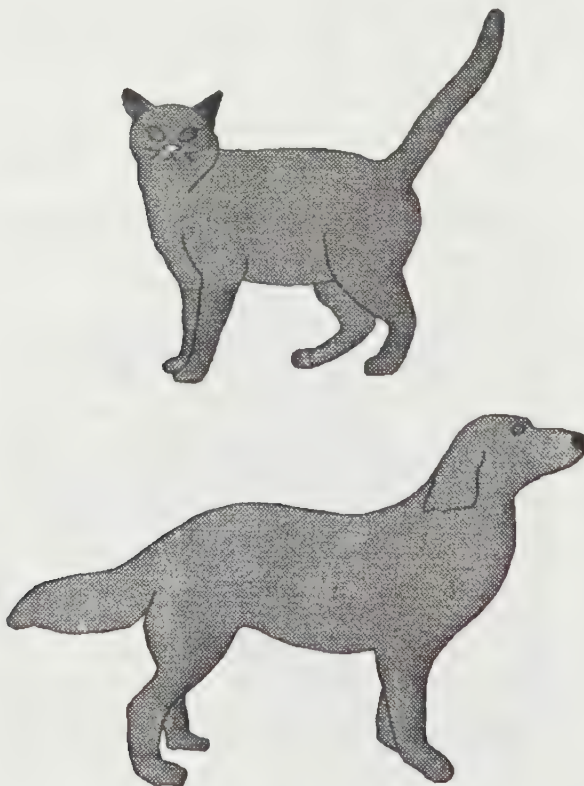
Lorsque la rage se manifeste sous une forme agressive, l'animal change de comportement. Un animal amical peut devenir timide. L'inverse s'applique également. L'animal peut mordre un autre animal ou un être humain sans raison

animal will rapidly lose weight, becomes paralyzed and dies.

If you suspect rabies be extremely careful and avoid contact with the animal. Contact your local health unit, police station, veterinarian or in the case of a wild animal the Ministry of Natural Resources District office.

You can help us control rabies by doing the following:

- Have your veterinarian vaccinate your pet regularly.
- Leash your pet and don't go near strays.
- Warn your children to stay away from "friendly" wild animals.
- Keep a healthy distance from wildlife.
- Report animal bites and unusual behaviour by animals to the appropriate authorities.



évidente et sa voix peut s'enrouer. Plus tard, l'animal peut devenir agité, excitable, nerveux, désorienté et courir sans but. Sachez remarquer un changement dans ses habitudes alimentaires, un bavage excessif ou l'affaiblissement de ses pattes arrières. Lorsque ces symptômes apparaissent, l'animal est sur le point de mourir.

Lorsque la rage se manifeste sous une forme amorphe, les symptômes sont beaucoup plus difficiles à déceler. L'animal maigrit rapidement, devient paralysé et meurt.

Si vous soupçonnez qu'un animal est enragé, faites extrêmement attention et évitez d'entrer en contact avec lui. Communiquez avec votre Bureau de santé, votre poste de police, votre vétérinaire et, si l'animal est agressif, le bureau de district du ministère des Richesses naturelles de votre localité.

Vous pouvez nous aider à maîtriser les risques de contamination par la rage en observant les recommandations suivantes:

Faites vacciner votre animal domestique régulièrement par un vétérinaire.

Lorsque vous promenez votre animal, tenez-le en laisse et à l'écart des animaux qui vagabondent.

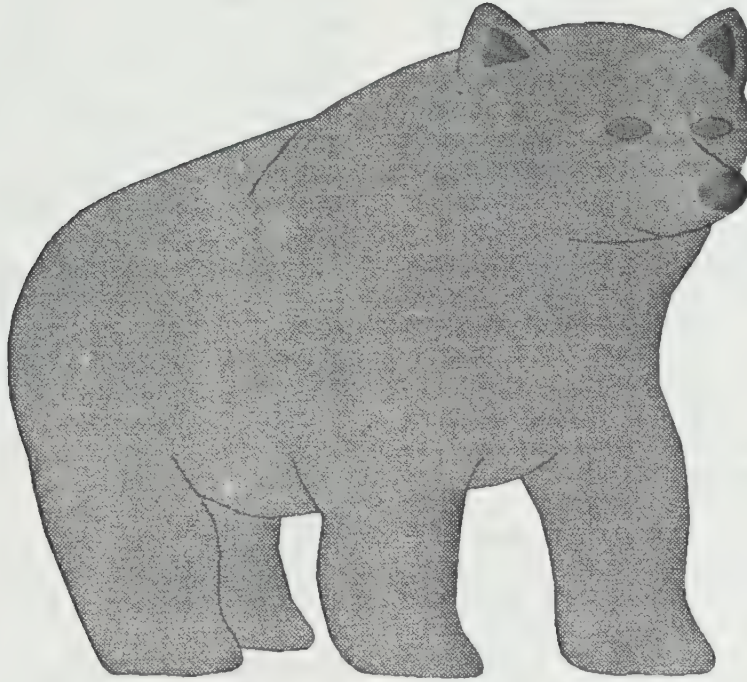
Mettez vos enfants en garde contre les animaux sauvages qui leur paraissent "amicaux".

Gardez une distance respectable entre vous et les animaux sauvages.

Signalez aux autorités toute morsure d'animal et tout comportement inhabituel remarqué chez un animal.

RESPECT THY BEARS

PREND GARDE AUX OURS



Recently, the unfortunate death of a young Timmins man, after being mauled by a black bear, brings home the fact that these animals are dangerous and unpredictable. Many people have forgotten this fact and pay very little attention to common sense precautions when enjoying our outdoors.

Bears are among the largest of the area animals. Only moose are larger. The chances are that you will rarely meet one in the wild, for they are usually shy of man.

If you meet a bear, treat it with great caution and respect. Bears can become very dangerous if they lose their fear of man. It is important that you, "the visitor", know how to act in the bear's home, both for your own sake and for that of the bear. These animals usually

Le récent et malheureux décès d'un jeune résident de Timmins qui a été mutilé et tué par un ours noir nous rappelle que ces animaux sont dangereux et imprévisibles. Beaucoup de gens oublient le danger qui les guettent et démontrent fort peu de bon sens en ce qui a trait aux précautions à suivre en plein air.

Les ours figurent parmi les plus gros animaux de notre région, dépassés seulement par l'orignal. Vous courez peu de risques d'en rencontrer dans les bois car ils ont habituellement peur des humains.

Si vous tombez face à face avec un ours, faites très attention et traitez-le avec respect. Les ours peuvent devenir très dangereux lorsqu'il n'ont plus peur des humains. C'est à vous,

become problems only when thoughtless people feed them or leave food where they can find it. The end result of this activity is usually the destruction of the animal.

When walking in the forest watch for bear sign. Be alert if you see warm droppings, other fresh sign, or smell a bear. If you meet one he will likely run away, but bears can be unpredictable. If he stands his ground, don't panic and run. You may excite the bear and invite pursuit. Slowly retreat and make a wide detour and watch for escape routes or a handy tree to climb.

If the bear advances aggressively, you have several options available. Your choice will depend on the situation at the time. You can either climb a tree if one is handy, fall to the ground and lie still with knees drawn up and your hands protecting the back of your head or in the case of a determined attack fight back with all the energy at your disposal. Remember, one of the most sensitive parts of the bear is his nose. A powerful blow to this area could discourage the animal from pressing his attack.

Female bears with cubs are especially dangerous. Never approach a cub, even if it seems to be alone. The mother may attack suddenly. A dog may be a problem companion. Bears do attack dogs and dogs do retreat to their masters. You are safer without a dog. Evidence also indicates that bears are especially likely to be aggressive toward women wearing scented cosmetics, hair spray, or deodorant and toward

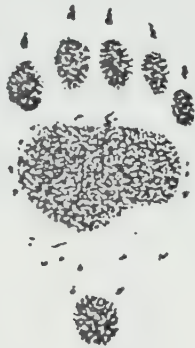
l'intrus, que revient la responsabilité de "bien" vous comporter sur le territoire naturel de l'ours, tant pour votre propre bien que pour celui de l'ours. Ces animaux ne commencent généralement à causer de problèmes que lorsque des gens étourdis leur donnent de la nourriture ou en laissent à leur portée. Cela se termine habituellement par la destruction de l'animal.

Ainsi, lorsque vous vous promenez en forêt, remarquez les pancartes indiquant la présence possible d'ours. Soyez vigilant si vous remarquez des traces fraîches indiquant leur présence (empreintes et selles), ou encore si vous sentez leur présence. Si vous sentez leur présence. Si vous en rencontrez un, il prendra vraisemblablement la fuite mais ne vous y fiez pas. Les ours peuvent être imprévisibles. S'il demeure immobile, ne paniquez pas et ne partez pas à courir. Cela ne ferait que l'inciter à vous poursuivre. Battez lentement en retraite en prenant garde de garder une grande distance entre vous et l'animal. Essayez d'identifier des sentiers pour vous échapper ou un arbre à proximité dans lequel vous pourriez grimper en cas d'urgence.

Si l'ours avance vers vous en démontrant de l'agressivité, vous pouvez réagir de plusieurs façons, dépendant des circonstances qui prévalent à ce moment-là. Vous pouvez grimper dans un arbre si vous en trouvez un à proximité, ou encore laissez-vous tomber par terre et demeurez immobile, les genoux relevés contre votre menton, vos mains protégeant votre nuque. Si l'ours décide

those in menstrual period.

A little common sense can go a long way in bear proofing yourself this summer. Please use caution!



de vous attaquer, combattez avec toute l'énergie que habitera. N'oubliez pas que le museau de l'ours est très sensible. Un coup puissant sur son museau pourrait encourager l'animal à battre en retraite.

Les ourses qui sont accompagnées de leurs oursons sont particulièrement dangereuses. N'approchez jamais d'un ourson, même s'il semble tout seul. Sa mère pourrait vous attaquer avec la soudaineté de l'éclair. Un chien peut vous causer des problèmes, car les ours attaquent les chiens et les chiens se réfugient près de leur maître. Vous êtes plus en sécurité sans chien. Il a également été prouvé que les ours sont davantage enclins à devenir agressifs envers les femmes qui utilisent des produits de beauté parfumés, du fixatif pour cheveux ou du désodorisant, ou encore envers les femmes menstruées.

Une once de bon sens pourrait fort bien vous sauver la vie cet été si vous tombez face à face avec un ours. De grâce, faites preuve de vigilance!

A CENTURY OF SERVICE COS TELL THE STORY

UN SIÈCLE DE SERVICE À L'ONTARIO...LES AGENTS RACONTENT



*proud of their tradition
fiers de leurs traditions*

"I don't know if the public truly understands our role. We're really caught in a delicate balance between enforcement and management, and it's a juggling act. On one hand, you're trying to offer assistance, on the other you're handing out a summons for illegal activity. That means you're always walking a fine line with the public." Mark Wickham, Maple District.

"Some parts of the job are really rewarding...I mean, how can you beat a job where your office is a lake one day, a forest the next. But it's also a real challenge. Let's face it, it's pretty numbing to uncover evidence of fifty deer carcasses in a barn. And it's sad to find a key wetland has been destroyed...you realize the wildlife and fish habitat it once supported has been

"Je ne suis pas certain que le public comprenne notre rôle. Nous sommes littéralement coincés entre la gestion et l'application des règlements. Cela exige parfois un véritable tour de force. D'un côté, nous offrons de l'aide alors que de l'autre, nous remettons des convocations de comparution en cour pour infractions commises. Cela signifie que nous marchons constamment sur la corde raide." (Mark Wickham district de Maple.)

"Certain aspects de notre travail sont réellement enrichissants car il est vraiment difficile de se dénicher un bureau dont le décor est un lac une journée puis une forêt le lendemain. Nous avons également des défis à relever. J'avoue que la vue de cinquante carcasses de chevreuils qui pourrissent dans

permanently lost." Hans Paulsen, Nipigon District.

"A different breed? Sure we are. I have yet to meet a CO who isn't really dedicated to guarding our wildlife and environment, as well as ensuring we're protecting today's resources for tomorrow's users." Joan Hubay, Kenora District.

"I'm really proud to be a CO and it's really exciting to look back and see how our energies today are built on the foundation of 100 years of past work. It's a great heritage and a real honour to carry on the tradition as part of a team prepared to meet today's challenges." Gary Caron, Aylmer District.

"Rewards of the job is meeting people who really enjoy the outdoors and nature. It is also rewarding to successfully convict ardent poachers who attempt to ruin everyone's opportunity to enjoy our most valued fish and wildlife resources." Bill Martin, Timmins District.

"After 28 years of service with the Department of Lands and Forest and the Ministry of Natural Resources, I am still amazed at the lack of understanding when it comes to fish and wildlife management, enforcement and education." Walter Cheguis, Timmins District.

"In 1989, when a small group of us decided to get into Crime Stoppers, no one expected that it would go province wide. But when you provide the public with a tool that gives them an opportunity to get involved, great things begin to happen." James Abbott, Timmins District.

une grange n'est pas une image, qui m'enchanté. Il est également triste de découvrir qu'un important marais a été détruit...on se rend compte que l'habitat naturel des animaux sauvages et des poissons qui s'y trouvait est perdu pour toujours." (Hans Paulsen, district de Nipigon.)

"Une race particulière? Certainement. Je n'ai jamais encore rencontré d'agent de protection de la nature que ne soit pas totalement dévoué à la conservation de la faune et de l'environnement. Nous visions tous à protéger les ressources d'aujourd'hui pour les utilisateurs de demain." (Joan Hubay, district de Kenora.)

"Je suis très fier d'être un agent de protection de la nature. Il est très excitant de découvrir que les efforts déployés aujourd'hui s'inscrivent dans un continuum de travail amorcé il y a un siècle. C'est un héritage superbe et un honneur réel de participer à la transmission de la tradition en faisant partie d'une équipe préparée à affronter les défis du monde modernes." (Gary Caron, district de Aylmer.)

"La rencontre de gens qui aiment vraiment la nature et la vie en plein air constitue une de nos récompenses. Il est également stimulant de réussir à faire condamner des braconniers actifs qui ruinent les chances de leurs concitoyens de se familiariser avec les plus importantes ressources fauniques et halieutiques." (Bill Martin, district de Timmins.)

"Après 28 ans au service du département des Terres et Forêts et du ministère des

"When I first started with the Ministry of Natural Resources, a challenge is what I wanted. The diversity of work as a Conservation Officer brought about many challenges. I'm sure the changing times will certainly bring about more challenges. What is a job without them?" Bert Massie, Timmins District.

Richesses naturelles, je suis encore absourdi par le manque d'information ainsi que de compréhension de la gestion et l'application des ressources fauniques et halieutiques." (Walter Cheguis, district de Timmins.)

"Lorsqu'une poignée d'entre nous avons décidé de participer à "Échec au crime" en 1989, personne ne pensait que la popularité du programme s'étendrait à l'échelle de la province. Lorsque vous donnez au public l'occasion de participer, de grandes choses peuvent être accomplies." (James Abbott, district de Timmins.)

"Lorsque j'ai commencé à travailler pour le ministère des Richesses naturelles, je recherchais à relever des défis. La variété des fonctions que j'étais appelé à assumer à titre d'agent de protection de la nature comportait de nombreux défis. Je suis certain que l'avenir m'en réserve tout autant. Qui voudrait d'un travail routinier?" (Bert Massie, district de Timmins)



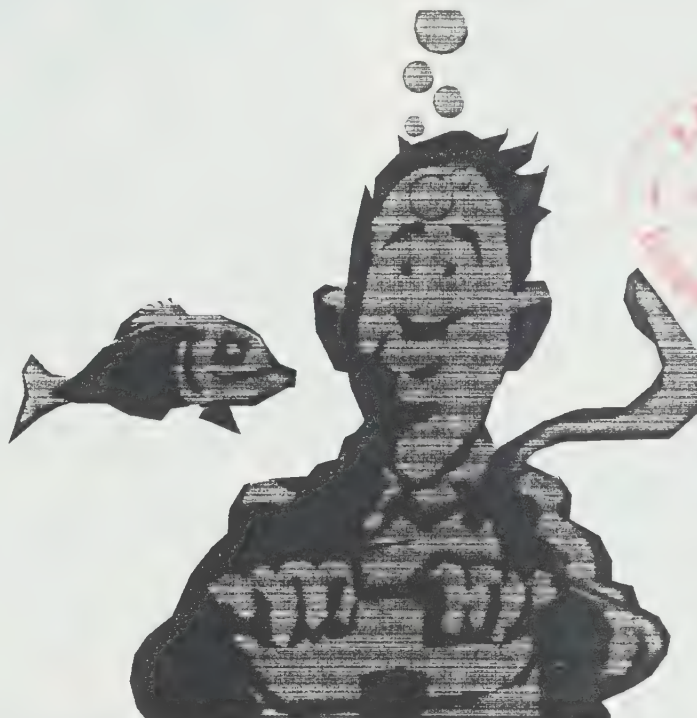
Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

ADON
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TIMMINS DISTRICT
DECEMBER, 1992

DISTRICT DE TIMMINS
DÉCEMBRE, 1992

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT FISH STUDY IN WEST SHINING TREE LAKE



RAPPORT D'ENQUÊTE SUR L'ÉTUDE MENÉE SUR LES RESSOURCES HALIEUTIQUES DU WEST SHINING TREE LAKE

We northerners, for the most part, are strongly influenced, and even to a point, conditioned by our natural environment. Examples of this concept are aptly demonstrated by the fact that "mother nature" will usually give us clues as to when to put away the boat, take out the snow

La majeure partie des résidents du Nord comme nous subissons la puissante influence exercée par notre milieu naturel. Les signes que "mère nature" nous donne pour nous indiquer qu'il est temps d'entreposer notre bateau, de sortir la pelle pour déneiger ou de nettoyer notre fourgonnette de camping afin de

shovel or clean up the camper in preparation for upcoming recreational pursuits. We could say that the land is King and we are but the vassals. However, such a relationship sensitizes us to any major changes in the environment. One such deviation was recently noted by the residents of the small community of Shining Tree located on the shore of West Shining Tree Lake. What they observed was a marked decline in the angler success rate for walleye in the waterbody. Was it due to overfishing? Was the lake ecosystem changing because of human activity such as shoreline disturbances or were other unknown factors at work? It became obvious that a comprehensive lake study was needed.



A request was sent to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Timmins District, Shining Tree Area. The area manager was very receptive to the idea. Unfortunately, budgetary levels indicated a "deep six" for the project. Following some brainstorming by area staff,

nous préparer pour nos loisirs de la saison qui s'annonce constituent tout des exemples de ce concept. Nous pourrions dire que l'environnement est "roi et maître" et que nous ne sommes que ses valets. Une relation de ce genre nous sensibilise toutefois à tout changement important qui se produit dans notre environnement. Une telle déviation a été remarquée récemment par les résidents de la petite communauté de Shining Tree située sur la rive du West Shining Tree Lake. En effet, ceux-ci ont remarqué que le nombre de dorés qu'ils réussissaient à pêcher avait diminué considérablement. S'agissait-il d'un problème de surpêche? L'écosystème du lac subissait-il une transformation imputable aux activités que les humains pratiquaient, notamment sur les rives du lac ou à tout autre facteur inconnu? Le lac devait faire l'objet d'une étude détaillée.

Une demande fut soumise au ministère des Richesses naturelles, district de Timmins, secteur de Shining Tree. Le chef régional accueillit bien l'idée. Malheureusement, les conditions budgétaires laissaient présager que le projet serait tué dans l'oeuf. Une session de remue-ménages effectuée par le personnel de la région permit de sauver le projet en établissant un partenariat entre le MRN, le Sir Sanford Fleming College et les pourvoyeurs touristiques locaux.

Le collège assigna 42 de ses étudiants ainsi que deux de ses agents de formation au projet.

the project was salvaged by the formation of a partnership between MNR, Sir Sanford Fleming College and local tourist operators.



The college supplied 42 students with two instructors. MNR provided accommodations, equipment and two staff members as project supervisors. The tourist operators equipped the work crews with boats and motors. The students carried out detailed shoreline, habitat, fish population and water chemistry studies. Preliminary results indicate that smallmouth bass is the dominant specie in the lake while walleye or northern pike are rare. The data is now being compiled by the students and will be submitted to MNR for analysis. A report listing future management strategies should be completed by the spring of 1993.

Such partnership programs are becoming extremely valuable in that they provide field experience to our next generation of resource technicians. It also contributes to MNR's data base and gives resource users a chance to get involved in actual management efforts. What also should be noted is that this project was a financial impossibility for MNR alone. However, when we work together the word impossible quickly disappears. Good work gang!

Le MRN fournit les installations, l'équipement et deux membres de son personnel qui feraient office de superviseurs de projet. Les pourvoyeurs touristiques, quant à eux, fournirent des bateaux et des moteurs aux équipes de travailleurs. Les étudiants analysèrent les données recueillies sur les rives, l'habitat, les populations de poissons et la composition chimique de l'eau. Les résultats préliminaires semblent indiquer une prévalence d'achigans à petite bouche dans le lac et une certaine rareté de dorés et de grands brochets. Les étudiants en sont rendus à compiler les données et leurs résultats seront soumis au MRN à des fins d'analyse. Un rapport précisant les stratégies de gestion qui seront adoptées devrait être terminé d'ici le printemps 1993.



De tels partenariats sont en voie de devenir extrêmement précieux, car ils permettent à notre prochaine génération de techniciens en ressources d'acquérir de l'expérience sur le terrain, tout en mettant la banque de données du MRN à jour et en incitant les utilisateurs de ressources à participer à la gestion réelle des ressources. Il faut également souligner que le MRN n'aurait pu financer un tel projet par lui-même. Il est encore prouvé que l'union fait la force, de sorte que plus rien n'est impossible. Félicitations à tous et chacun pour le bon travail!

AND THE GARBAGE KEEPS COMING!!!!

The Timmins District of the Ministry of Natural Resources maintains several solid waste disposal sites at various locations throughout the district. These are constructed to provide garbage disposal facilities for recreationists, campers, fisherman, hunters, cottagers and general forest users.

Construction methods are of a trench type as opposed to the landfill system utilized by the City of Timmins. This means that a long trench is excavated to be a receiving area for domestic waste (household garbage). Other areas of the site are designated for scrap metal, brush and building materials. These sites are all carefully posted to direct the user to the appropriate dumping area. When the system is used as intended, MNR is only required to make semi-annual visits to compact and cover the waste in the trenches, burn the brush in the central area and coordinate the scrap metal pick up by a private contractor.

One would think that the simplicity of the system, almost guarantees a trouble free and inexpensive method of disposing of recreationally generated waste. Wrong! A system only works if accepted and used by the people. Unfortunately, this is not happening at the waste disposal sites. People are not obeying dumping instructions and the sites have become a no mans land for garbage. We find garbage dumped indiscriminately in all areas of the dump. Scrap metal finds its way in the

ET LES DÉCHETS CONTINUENT DE S'ACCUMULER!!!

Le ministère des Richesses naturelles du district de Timmins s'occupe de plusieurs dépotoirs de déchets solides situés à divers endroits dans le district. Ces dépotoirs ont été aménagés de façon à permettre l'élimination de déchets générés par les vacanciers, les campeurs, les pêcheurs, les chasseurs, les propriétaires de chalet et les utilisateurs des forêts en général.

Dans les dépotoirs du ministère, les déchets sont déversés dans des fossés, contrairement à ceux de la ville de Timmins qui, elle, enfouit les siens dans une décharge à ciel ouvert. Cela signifie qu'un long fossé est creusé afin de permettre le déversement des déchets domestiques (ordures ménagères). La ferraille, les broussailles et les résidus de matériaux de construction sont, quant à eux, déversés dans des endroits spécialement désignés à cette fin dans le dépotoir du ministère. Des panneaux sont soigneusement installés afin de diriger les usagers vers les sites de décharge appropriés. Lorsque ces dépotoirs sont utilisés adéquatement, le personnel du MRN ne doit s'y rendre que deux fois par année pour compacter et recouvrir les déchets déversés dans les tranchées, brûler la broussaille accumulée dans le centre et assurer le ramassage de la ferraille par un entrepreneur privé.

La simplicité de ce système nous porterait à croire qu'une telle méthode de gestion des

trench with large amount of brush and wood. Signs are vandalized as quickly as we can replace them and large amount of waste is left along the access road to the site.

People must realize that this activity will have far reaching impacts on other programs administered by MNR. Remember, for every action there is a reaction opposite and equal. If the action is indiscriminate dumping of waste, the reaction by MNR is the allocation of more funds to clean up the dumps. This means moneys for such projects as road repairs, access point maintenance, fish stocking and cottage subdivision development are diverted to dump maintenance. These are the realities of our fiscal environment.

We must all realize, that a healthy and clean environment is the responsibility of every individual in society. Get involved, follow the rules and report environmental polluters to Crime Stoppers at 268-TIPS.



déchets reliés aux loisirs est rentable et totalement dénuée de problème. Erreur! Le système ne fonctionne que dans la mesure où il est respecté et où ses paramètres sont respectés. Ce n'est malheureusement pas le cas de la gestion des déchets dans les dépotoirs sont devenus des terrains vagues car des déchets y sont déversés n'importe où : on trouve de la ferraille parmi de larges quantités de broussaille et de résidus de bois qui viennent s'accumuler dans les tranchées. Les panneaux sont victimes d'actes de vandalisme dès que nous les remplaçons et des quantités importantes de déchets jonchent les chemins d'accès qui conduisent aux dépotoirs.

Le public doit prendre conscience que les répercussions découlant de tels gestes influenceront grandement sur les autres programmes du MRN. N'oubliez pas que chaque geste entraîne des conséquences d'égale portée. Ainsi, le déversement sans discernement des déchets contraint le MRN à dépenser davantage, simplement pour nettoyer les dépotoirs. Cela signifie que des sommes qui seraient allouées pour la réparation routière, l'entretien des points d'accès, l'approvisionnement des ressources halieutiques et l'aménagement de lots sur lesquels des chalets peuvent être construits, doivent être affectées à la remise en état des dépotoirs. Ce sont là des réalités budgétaires avec lesquelles il nous faut composer.

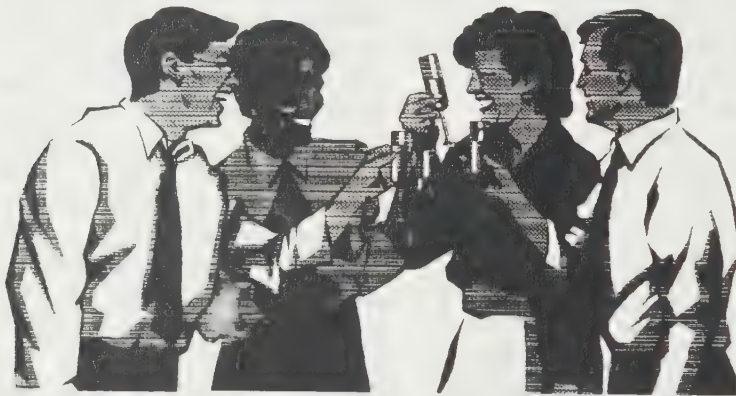
Chacun d'entre nous devons prendre conscience que la responsabilité d'un



environnement sain et propre relève de chaque membre de la société. Participons donc en respectant les règlements établis et en signalant toute source de pollution écologique en communiquant avec Échec au crime (268-TIPS).

THE DUGWAL PIT PROJECT EXERCISE IN PARTNERSHIPS

LE PROJET D'EXPLOITATION MINIÈRE DUGWAL EXERCICE DE PARTENARIAT



Gravel pits are nothing new in the Timmins area and many hundreds dot the landscape in and around our community. The aggregates (sand and gravel) removed from these sites are essential for road construction, concrete and asphalt production, and backfill for mining and various construction projects.

Unfortunately aggregates, like minerals are not renewable resources. Even the most prolific and lucrative sites, will one day be exhausted. In the past, when pit operations ceased, the owner would simply pack up his equipment and leave. Left behind was a large excavation surrounded by steep

Les puits d'extraction de gravier ne datent pas d'hier dans la région de Timmins et bon nombre d'entre eux marquent le paysage tant à l'intérieur qu'à l'extérieur de notre communauté. Les agrégats (sable et gravier) extraits de ces mines jouent un rôle essentiel pour la construction de routes, la production de ciment et d'asphalte ainsi que de remplissage pour l'exploitation minière et divers projets de construction.

À l'instar des minerais, les agrégats ne sont malheureusement pas une ressource renouvelable. Ainsi, même les sites les plus riches et rentables s'épuiseront un

and unstable pit walls. Most of these sites, with the passage of time, became illegal dumping grounds for garbage, old cars, appliances and discarded building materials.

New legislation, now requires pit owners to plan for the rehabilitation of the site once the aggregate resource is exhausted. Some plans call for the sloping of pit walls to a safe 3 to 1 gradient. Others, require a liberal planting of young trees to prevent erosion and bring the land base to a productive state. In big urban centres, some exhausted pits have actually become playgrounds or golf courses.

On the local scene, a pit rehabilitation effort worth mentioning is the Dugwal project, located a few kilometres northeast of Hoyle. This gravel extraction site has a long history traceable back to the 1950s. The original excavation was carried out by Miller Paving. This was to provide a source of gravel for various construction and development work in the area. Once the pit was exhausted, the depth and size of the remaining cavity quickly filled with water and formed a scenic lake. The cold and crystal clear waters were ideal for splake and brook trout introductions. In short, the area quickly became a focal point for local recreational use.

A recent site visit by the Ministry of Natural Resources, to assess the area for future day use expansion, revealed a serious garbage dumping problem. Apparently some local residents have been using the road to the pit as a final

jour. Dans le passé, lorsque les activités d'exploitation cessaient, le propriétaire emballait simplement son équipement et quittait les lieux, laissant derrière lui une énorme excavation bordée de parois instables et escarpées. Or, au fil des ans, ces terrains étaient transformés en dépotoirs illégaux regorgeant de déchets, de carcasses d'automobiles, d'appareils ménagers et de rebuts de matériaux de construction.

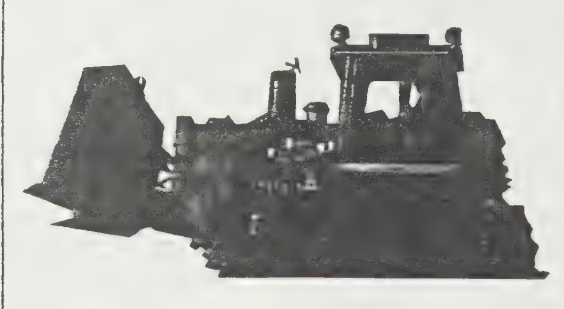
Les nouvelles lois adoptées exigent désormais que les propriétaires de puits d'extraction de gravier prévoient la remise en état du terrain après en avoir épuisé les ressources en agrégats. Certains plans de remise en état exigent que le degré des pentes soit diminué de façon à obtenir une proportion sécuritaire de 3 pour 1, alors que d'autres exigent qu'une quantité généreuse d'arbrisseaux y soit plantée afin de prévenir l'érosion et de ramener l'assise territoriale à un niveau rentable. Dans les grands centres urbains, certains des puits dont les ressources avaient été épuisées ont même été convertis en terrains de jeux ou de golf.

Au palier local, un effort de remise en état vaut la peine d'être souligné : le projet Dugwal se déroulant quelques kilomètres au nord-est de Hoyle. L'histoire de ce puits d'extraction de gravier remonte aux années 1950. Les premières activités d'excavation avaient été effectuées par la compagnie Miller Paving, afin de fournir à la compagnie le gravier dont elle avait besoin pour

resting place for hundreds of appliances, old cars and various other items.

The cleanup of this garbage was clearly beyond the resources and funding capabilities of MNR. What was needed were partners concerned about environmental quality. They also had to be willing to donate resources and time towards a cleanup of the area. The call went out and positive answers came from Miller Paving, Leo Alarie and Sons, the City of Timmins, Ice Chest Lake and area residents and the Green Warriors, an environmental awareness group at Roland Michener Secondary School.

The first phase of the project consisted of removing the bulk garbage items with the help of heavy equipment from Alarie and Miller Paving. The area was then combed by 28 Green Warriors, MNR staff from the



Porcupine Area and one Ice Chest Lake resident. The group picked up an incredible 125 bags of garbage in a one day period. To suppress the growth of unwanted vegetation, the site will be seeded with clover. Trees will be planted in the area during the 1993 season. MNR also will carry out a Class Environmental Assessment to plan for the best future use of the site.

effectuer divers travaux de construction et d'aménagement qui lui avaient été confiés dans la région. Lorsque les ressources du puits ont été épuisées, le grand trou profond ainsi créé s'est rapidement rempli d'eau, pour ensuite se transformer en lac panoramique. Ses eaux froides et cristallines devinrent l'habitat par excellence pour la truite moulac et l'omble de fontaine. Bref, la région est rapidement devenue le paradis des amateurs de pêche récréative locaux.

Au cours d'une visite des dépotoirs effectuée afin d'évaluer une éventuelle expansion de l'utilisation de jour du site, des membres du personnel du ministère des Richesses naturelles ont découvert les graves problèmes de gestion des déchets qui y se vivaient. Certains résidents locaux utilisaient apparemment le chemin conduisant au site pour se débarrasser de centaines d'appareils ménagers, de carcasses d'automobiles et d'autres articles du genre.

Le nettoyage des déchets qui jonchaient ce terrain dépassait clairement les ressources et le financement dont le personnel du MRN disposait. Il fallait songer à avoir recours aux services de partenaires qui s'intéressaient à la qualité de l'environnement, également prêts à contribuer les ressources et le temps requis pour nettoyer la région. Miller Paving, Leo Alarie and Sons, la ville de Timmins, les résidents de Ice Chest Lake et de la région ainsi que les Green Warriors, un groupe d'écologistes de l'école secondaire Roland Michener



What is needed now, is a partnership with local service clubs that would help in further development of the area. The Dugwal Pit project has shown that it is possible to work as partners, to improve our environment.

A sad note to this otherwise positive story. Since the initial cleanup, some residents, of dubious environmental ethics, have dumped fresh garbage on the site. Evidence collected at the scene resulted in charges laid against one individual. Under the Public Lands Act anyone convicted of illegal dumping faces a minimum charge of \$103, but can range up to \$5000. This depends on how much it costs MNR to clean up the site. We ask that anyone observing illegal dumping remember a licence plate and/or a description of the individual, and call Crime Stoppers at 268-8477, 268-TIPS.

Secondary School, ont répondu à l'appel qui avait alors été lancé.

La première phase du projet protait sur le déblaiement des gros déchets à l'aide d'équipement lourd fourni par les compagnies Alarie et Miller Paving. La région a ensuite été passée au peigne fin par 28 Green Warriors, par des membres du personnel du MRN de la région de Porcupine ainsi que par un résident de Ice Chest Lake. Les membres de ce groupe ont rempli un total incroyable de 125 sacs de déchets au cours d'une seule journée. De plus, du trèfle sera semé sur le terrain afin de supprimer la croissance de toute végétation indésirable. Des arbrisseaux seront plantés dans la région au cours de la saison de 1993. Le MRN offrira également une évaluation environnementale de portée générale afin de planifier une utilisation plus judicieuse de terrain.

Ce dont nous avons maintenant besoin, c'est de conclure un partenariat avec les clubs sociaux locaux intéressés à mousser le développement de cette région. La concrétisation du projet du puits d'extraction Dugwal prouve que le partenariat fonctionne et permet d'améliorer notre environnement.

Un facteur négatif vient néanmoins se greffer à cette expérience positive : depuis le nettoyage initial précité, certains résidents possédant des principes écologiques élastiques ont déversé d'autres déchets sur le terrain. Les preuves recueillies sur les lieux ont permis d'inculper une personne. La Loi sur les terres



publiques stipule que toute personne reconnue coupable de déversement illégal de déchets est passible d'une amende allant de 103 \$ à 5 000 \$, selon les frais engagés par le MRN pour nettoyer ce terrain à nouveau. Nous demandons à quiconque est témoin d'un déversement illégal de déchets de mémoriser la description physique du contrevenant ou son numéro de plaque d'immatriculation, pour ensuite communiquer avec Échec au crime en composant le 268-8477 ou le 268-TIPS.

Une amende de 103 \$ à 5 000 \$ est possible pour un déversement illégal de déchets.



A fine from \$103 to \$5000 is possible for littering.

THE ADVENTURES OF ED THE EMU



Once upon a time, in the land of Timmins District lived a lonely emu named Ed. It is not certain if the name "Ed" is short for Edwina, Edna, Eleanor or just plain Ed. You can imagine the debates this generated at the local "watering holes" that are usually more full of wonderfully exciting people than a pomegranate is of pips. This crowd would prefer to observe eggs frying on the sidewalk than carry out the necessary anatomical exam to determine the gender of this creature. Ed, of course, was not talking.

For the unfortunates, not immersed in the world of ornithology, an emu is not the abbreviation for electromagnetic unit. It is a swift-running Australian bird related to and smaller than the ostrich.

Ed, for reasons known only to himself, had adopted a pet, a bipedal primate mammal named

LES AVENTURES DE L'ÉMEU ED

Il y a longtemps, dans le pays du district de Timmins, vivait un émeu solitaire qui s'appelait Ed. Personne ne savait si "Ed" était de diminutif d'Édouard, d'Edgar ou d'Eléonore ou signifiait simplement...Ed. Vous pouvez vous imaginer les vives discussions que cela a causé aux "bars" regroupant habituellement plus de gens qu'une grenade contient de pépins. Cette foule préférerait regarder cuire un oeuf sur le trottoir plutôt que d'effectuer l'examen anatomique requis pour déterminer le sexe de cette creature. Et "Ed" se tenait, évidemment, parfaitement coi.

Pour les moins fortunés qui ne sont pas versés dans le monde de l'ornithologie, un émeu n'est pas une créature imaginaire, mais plutôt un oiseau d'Australie, de la famille de l'autruche mais plus petit, capable de se déplacer rapidement.

Or Ed, pour des raisons que lui

Lavern. In Australia, some fellow emus claimed that this specie had a capacity for articulate speech and abstract reasoning. This theory, Ed knew, was complete rubbish and could be attributed to an over consumption of overripe clusters of rhea-rhea berries by his fellow emus. After all, as proof of this specie's lack of intelligence, he could always point to the long training period required to get his human pet to properly clean his pen and deliver his meals on time.

It is an important and popular fact that things are not always what they seem. For instance, we have always assumed that we are more intelligent than emus because we have achieved so much - the wheel, clearcuts, wars and so on - while all the emus ever do is muck about and have a good time. The converse to this is that the emus had always believed that they were more intelligent for precisely the same reasons.

So, it was not surprising that the day came that Ed, having solved all the great philosophical puzzles of the age, had surpassed the stage of "I think therefore I am" and decided it was time to explore the furthest reaches of his universe. In this case, this consisted of the various back yards and streets of the human community known as South Porcupine. In some, the appearance of this bird generated much curiosity and fear. Others experienced uncontrollable cravings for giant drumsticks on Thanksgiving weekend. Pleas for assistance from the local constabulary resulted in the

seul connaît, avait adopté un animal familier, un mammifère bipède et primate prénommé Laverne. En Australie, certains de ses congénères émeus prétendaient que les membres de cette espèce pouvaient parler de façon articulée et possédaient des aptitudes de raisonnement abstrait. Ed savait pertinemment bien que cette théorie ne valait strictement rien et attribuait ces allégations à une surconsommation de baies sauvages trop mûres de la part de ses amis émeus. À titre de preuve du manque d'intelligence des membres de cette espèce, il pouvait attirer leur attention sur le fait que son animal domestique humain avait dû subir une longue période de dressage avant d'apprendre à nettoyer son enclos correctement et de lui apporter ses repas à l'heure.

"Ne pas juger un livre d'après sa couverture" est d'ailleurs un proverbe reconnu, jouant un rôle important. Ainsi, nous avons toujours pensé être plus intelligents que les émeus parce que nous avons réussi à accomplir tant de choses : n'avons-nous pas inventé la roue, les coupes à blanc, les guerres et ainsi de suite? Les émeus, eux, ne font que s'amuser et perdre leur temps. L'affirmation inverse s'applique également car les émeus ont toujours été convaincus de leur supériorité, invoquant précisément les mêmes raisons.

Vint alors inévitablement le jour où Ed, ayant résolu toutes les grandes énigmes philosophiques de son époque et ayant dépassé le stade du "Je pense donc je suis", décida



formation of a committee to ascertain if emu chasing somehow contravened the collective agreement or the Police Act. The ball was bouncing and the buck was earning loads of frequent flyer miles when someone decided that the scope of the project should expand to include the Ministry of Natural Resources. After all, was not MNR the experts in wildlife capture, with Merlin Perkins, of the "Mild Kingdom." The call went out, and MNR assembled an integrated team of resource management experts. These people, for the most part, did not have a clue of what an emu was, much less of how to capture one. After loading the truck with an assortment of nets, tarps, canvases, paddles, brooms and a copy of the encyclopedia of wildlife, our heroic group set out to meet their destiny.

A careful query of pertinent sections of the encyclopedia told our staffers to be on the lookout for a bird that looked like a giant chicken. Upon

qu'il se devait d'explorer les confins de son univers. Il se rendit donc dans le cour de divers résidents, puis déambula dans les rues qui sillonnent la communauté humaine connue sous le nom de South Porcupine. L'arrivée de cet oiseau suscita beaucoup de curiosité et de crainte chez certains résidents, alors que d'autres ont ressenti l'irrésistible envie de manger des pattes de poulet géant pour l'Action de grâce. Les demandes d'aide émanant de la force constabulaire a mené a la formation d'un comité mandaté de découvrir si la chasse à l'émeu enfreignait de quelque façon l'entente collective ou la Loi sur les services policiers. Tout le monde se renvoyait la balle, de sorte qu'a force de passer d'une personne a l'autre, celle-ci accumulait suffisamment de kilomètres aériens pour se payer une vacance quelque part. Quelqu'un proposa alors que le projet devrait déborder de ses paramètres de façons à inclure le ministère des Richesses naturelles. Le MRN ne comptait-il pas parmi ses rangs des experts comme Merlin Perkins, spécialistes de la faune et particulièrement des "animaux ailés"? L'appel fut lancé et le MRN réussit à réunir une équipe homogène d'experts en gestion des ressources. Or, la plupart d'entre eux n'avait aucune idée de ce qu'était un émeu, encore moins de la façon de le capturer. Après avoir rempli le camion d'une panoplie de filets, de bâches, de toiles, d'avirons, de balais et d'un exemplaire de l'encyclopédie sur la faune, notre groupe de héros partit accomplir son destin.

their arrival at the scene, several inquiries about the location of the emu resulted in many strange looks and wishes that the bag of mixed nuts, driving around in a MNR vehicle, should pay a visit to the nearest mental institution. Luckily, a member of the capture group, happened to be a Conservation Officer. These officers, according to recent literature, have been tracking down bad guys for the last one hundred years. So it was with great care that the officer who will only be identified as "Walter," sniffed the air with his well developed proboscis, and was able to locate Ed at the local float plane base. Who knows, our lovable emu may have been trying to negotiate a flight back to Australia.

The "plan," if you could call it that, was to corner the emu and capture it with the help of a various assortment of various nets. A skirmish line was hastily formed and our brave group advanced on the unsuspecting victim. This strange human behaviour reminded our feathered dickybird of an old emu game called the irresistible force meets the unmovable object. Ed knew that the irresistible side always won. In a dash that would put Ben Johnson to shame, our errant traveller sliced through the nets like a hot knife would through margarine (remember this story is written with cost savings in mind). The district staff was left with tattered pieces of net and the chore of picking up an assortment of jaws and eyeballs from the pavement.

From this point on, the chase took on a nightmarish quality,

Après avoir soigneusement étudié les parties de l'encyclopédie traitant du sujet en question, nos compères apprirent qu'ils devaient rechercher un oiseau qui ressemblait à un poulet géant. À leur arrivée sur les lieux, ils se mirent à poser des questions afin de déterminer l'endroit où se cachait l'émeu, ce qui leur valu de nombreux regards lourds de sens, leurs interlocuteurs souhaitant que ce groupe de tête folles se promenant dans un véhicule du MRN soit transporté d'urgence dans l'établissement pour malades mentaux le plus proche. Un membre de ce groupe de "chasseurs" était heureusement un agent de protection de la nature. Or, la documentation publiée récemment déclare que ces agents pourchassent les méchant depuis le siècle dernier. Alors, cet agent de protection de la nature que nous n'appellerons que "Walter" a donc procédé avec précaution, reniflant l'air avec son appendice nasal dont la nature l'a si généreusement pourvu, puis a réussi à retracer Ed à la base aérienne locale des hydravions. Qui sait, notre émeu était peut-être en train de se négocier une place sur le prochain vol à destination de l'Australie.

Le "plan" si on peut l'appeler ainsi, consistait à coincer l'émeu et à le capturer en utilisant un assortiment de filets. Une chaîne d'intervenants récalcitrants fut formée à la hâte et notre groupe de téméraires se mit à avancer vers l'innocente victime. Cet étrange comportement humain rappela à notre "petit" zoizeau un jeu traditionnel des émeus intitulé

with Ed gracefully leaping several backyard fences followed by a not so graceful but persistent MNR capture crew. Walter, the friendly CO, even met with a nasty looking section of barbed wire fence that ended up keeping various samples of his attire.

What finally turned the tide in favour of the attackers was a tarp and a determined blitz by the team. Once the bird was "sacked," as they say in football, the tarp was wrapped around the bird. Finally, the powerful and dangerous legs were securely tied. A short ride later, Ed was finally returned to his pen where he could quietly reflect on his great adventure.

Victorious, the MNR crew returned to the district office with a small representation of an emu painted on the side of the vehicle. It is rumoured that bolas are now listed on the Timmins inventory of MNR field equipment.

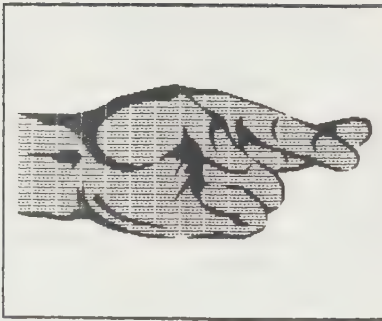


"force irrésistible rencontre objet que ne peut être déplacé". Ed savait que les membres de la faction de la force irrésistible gagnaient toujours. En se précipitant à une vitesse qui aurait fait rougir Ben Johnson d'envie, notre explorateur errant traversa les filets comme un couteau dans de la margarine (n'oubliez pas que cette anecdote vous est racontée de façon à respecter nos restrictions budgétaires). Le personnel du district s'est retrouvé avec des lambeaux de filet et a dû ramasser l'assortiment de mâchoires et de yeux qui jonchaient le pavé.

La chasse revêtit des lors un aspect de cauchemar, Ed sautant gracieusement pardessus plusieurs clôtures de cour, poursuivi d'une équipe de chasseurs qui gagnaient en persévérance ce qu'ils perdaient en grâce. Walter, l'agent de protection amical, a même atterri sur une partie de barbelé particulièrement menaçante qui a fini par garder divers souvenirs de son accoutrement.

Lorsque le vent a finalement tourné en faveur des poursuivants, ceux-ci ont réussi leur attaque-éclair grâce à une bâche et l'ému s'est retrouvé ficelé comme un jambon, ses puissantes et dangereuses pattes solidement attachées. Après une courte promenade en voiture, Ed fut finalement remis dans son enclos où il put réfléchir à sa glorieuse épopée en toute quiétude.

Victorieux, les membres de l'équipe du MRN retournèrent à leur bureau de district,



CHRISTMAS TREES

The Ministry of Natural Resources cannot officially authorize the cutting of Christmas trees on Crown land as all cutting of any Crown owned timber must be covered by a District Cutting Licence. In the spirit of Christmas and under the assumption people will use common sense, the Ministry of Natural Resources - Northeast Region - has not enforced the cutting licence requirements for persons taking a single tree for their personal use.

The Ministry encourages the purchasing of artificial Christmas trees or regular trees from a private supplier. When cutting your Christmas tree you should observe the following rules.

- 1) Select one tree only of a size suitable to your needs.
- 2) Do not cut large trees and use the top portion only.
- 3) Do not cut any trees in established plantations, in or next to private land or near built up areas.
- 4) Leave any limbs or unwanted portions of the tree in the bush, not on the shoulder of

arborant un petit dessin d'émeu peint sur une portière. Des rumeurs circulent présentement à l'effet que des "bolas" font désormais partie de l'équipement utilisé par le personnel du MRN de Timmins dans ses excursions sur le terrain.

ARBRES DE NOËL

Puisqu'il est nécessaire d'obtenir un permis de coupe du district avant de couper du bois appartenant à la Couronne, le ministère des Richesses naturelles n'autorise pas officiellement la coupe d'arbres de Noël sur les terres de la Couronne. Cependant, durant la saison de Noël, le ministère prend pour acquis que les gens feront preuve de bon sens et n'exige pas que les personnes qui coupent un arbre pour leur usage personnel obtiennent un permis de coupe.

Le ministère encourage les gens à acheter un arbre d'un fournisseur privé ou à se procurer un arbre de Noël artificiel. Lorsque vous copez un arbre, veuillez:

- 1) ne choisir qu'un seul arbre de Noël, de la grosseur qui vous convient;
- 2) ne pas couper un gros arbre, pour en utiliser la cime seulement;
- 3) ne pas couper des arbres dans des plantations du ministère des Richesses naturelles, sur ou près de terres cédées par lettres patentes ou près d'agglomérations;

the highways or area access roads.

5) Do not cut trees along highways, access roads or lakes as it damages the aesthetics of the area.

6) Go at least 30 meters (100 feet) off the right-of-way to cut your tree.

Note: The Ministry will not authorize growing or harvesting of Christmas trees on Crown land.

4) laisser les branches et parties non- désirées dans le bois, au lieu de les laisser sur l'accotement des routes ou des chemins d'accès;

5) ne pas couper les arbres le long des routes, chemins d'accès ou lacs afin de conserver la beauté des environs;

6) aller dans le bois, à au moins 100 pieds de l'emprise du chemin, pour couper votre arbres.

Avis: Le ministère n'autorise pas la cultivation ou la récoltes d'arbres de Noël sur les terres de la Couronne.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Heureuse Année



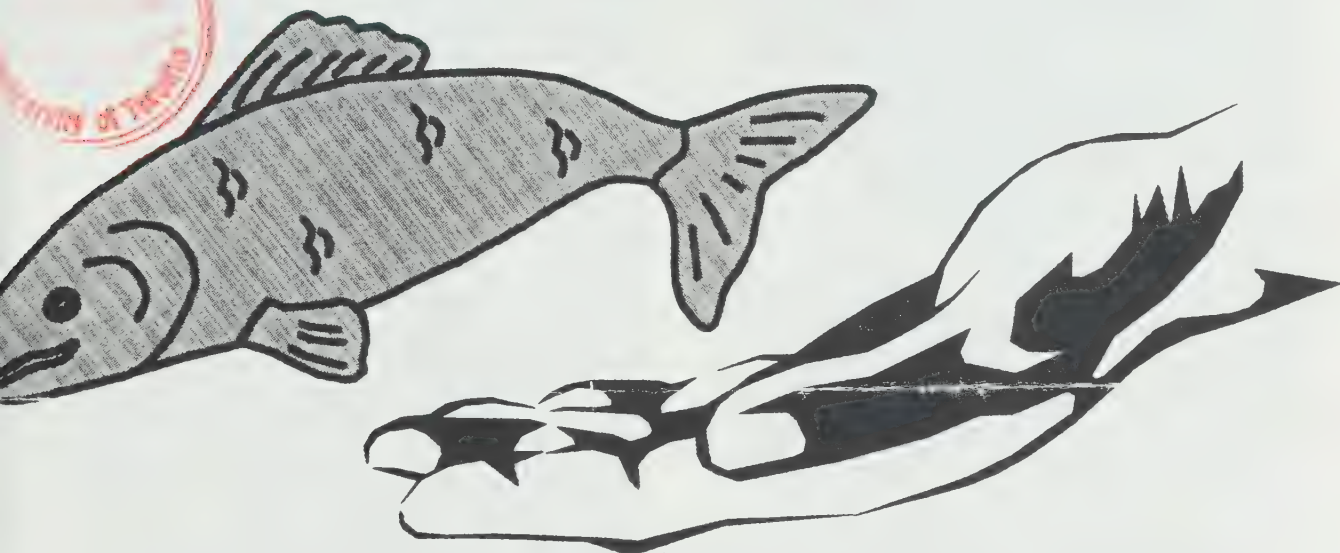
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Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

TIMMINS DISTRICT
OCTOBER, 1993

DISTRICT DE TIMMINS
OCTOBRE, 1993

WAY BACK IN THE SPRING!



IL Y A DE CELA BIEN LONGTEMPS...AU PRINTEMPS DERNIER

Earlier this year in the land of Gogama, our MNR staffers with a strong contingent of local volunteers decided to stock some lakes. The main players in the effort consisted of cottagers from the Felix and Ruel Lake areas, tourist camp operators in the Thor Lake area and residents of the Mattagami First Nation.

Traditionally, the Ministry would carry out the stocking in these lakes. However, this activity was curtailed due to the merciless work of the budget axe. For northerners, setbacks become challenges or

Plus tôt cette année, au pays de Gogama, les membres du personnel du MNR, en collaboration avec un solide groupe de bénévoles locaux, décidèrent d'empoissonner certains lacs. Les personnages principaux de cette histoire étaient des propriétaires de chalets de la région de lacs Félix et Ruel, des pourvoyeurs touristiques oeuvrant dans la région du lac Thor ainsi que des résidents de la Première Nation Mattagami.

L'ensemencement de ces lacs relève habituellement du Ministère. Or, lorsque cette

obstacles to be overcome. The impossible was to become reality. The fish were going to be stocked.

The groups plan called for the fish stocking to take place in late march, when the ice was still on the lakes. Volunteers travelled to the water bodies by snow machine and drilled holes in the ice in preparation to the arrival of the fish. While this was happening, teams consisting of MNR staff and volunteers placed the valuable cargo in water and oxygen filled plastic bags. These were then transported by helicopter to the designated lakes.

The stocking was completed in two days and resulted in a considerable cost saving over traditional methods. These lakes now have an additional 23,500 brook trout, 10,500 splake and 3,500 rainbow trout. The northern spirit of helping and working together is certainly alive in this community. Keep up the good work Gogama!

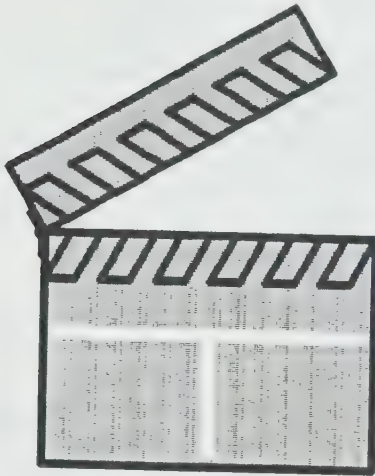


activité tomba sous le couperet budgétaire, les résidents du Nord, fidèles à leur réputation de preux chevaliers réussissant à surmonter tous les obstacles, relevèrent le défi et réalisèrent l'impossible : l'ensemencement des lacs envers et contre tous.

Le plan élaboré par ces groupes prévoyait que l'ensemencement de ces lacs débiterait vers la fin mars, alors que les lacs seraient encore emprisonnés sous la glace. Les bénévoles ont chevauché leur motoneige pour se rendre aux cours d'eau et ont percé des trous dans la glace en prévision de l'arrivée des poissons. Pendant ce temps, d'autres équipes composées de membres du personnel du MRN et d'autres bénévoles s'affairaient à acheminer leur précieuse cargaison à destination, dans des sacs de plastique remplis d'eau d'oxygène. Ces sacs ont ensuite été transportés par hélicoptères aux lacs désignés.

L'empoissonnement fut terminé en deux jours et a permis de réaliser d'importantes économies par rapport aux méthodes traditionnellement utilisées. Ces lacs se sont donc enrichis de 23 500 ombles de fontaine, de 10 500 truites moulac et de 3 500 truites arc-en-ciel. Cette communauté était indubitablement animée par l'esprit de collaboration et d'entraide qui caractérise si bien les gens du Nord. Chapeau Gogama!

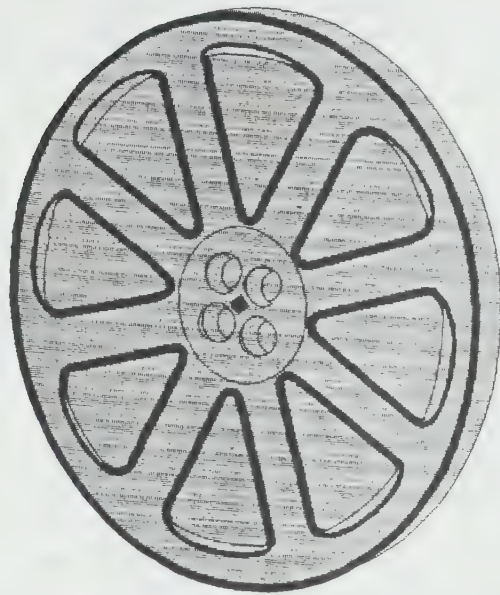
SO YOU WANT TO BE IN THE MOVIES!



MNR staff, have over the years, proven that they are up to any challenge. We have rounded up errant emus, moose, skunks, bears and fought raging forest fires. We almost have enough material to start our own weekly TV show. How does Rescue Zenith 92000 sound? We could have the show hosted by that northern legend Stomping Tom Connors. Also, to make our foresters happy, David Suzuki could be asked to co-host.

Some of our latest cinemagraphic efforts include, a forest thriller called Trees For Canada, in which a group of out of control Boy Scouts try to plant northern Ontario. Critics say it sort of grows on you. Our next brain storm on the video beat came in the much talked about "The Timmins Video." This Video North production features foresters herding sheep, conservation officers keeping the peace and technicians catching all the

ALORS, LE CINÉMA VOUS INTÉRESSE?



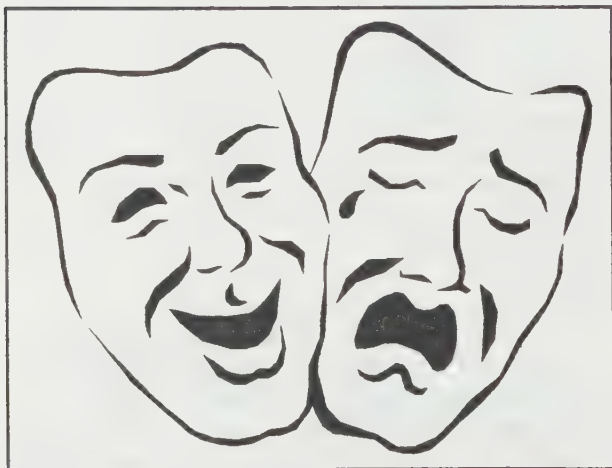
Le personnel du MRN a démontré au fil des ans qu'il peut relever pratiquement n'importe quel défi. Nous nous sommes portés à la rescousse d'énieus, d'orignaux, de mouffettes et d'ours égarés, puis avons lutté contre les incendies de forêt qui ont fait rage. En fait, le nombre de nos prouesses nous permettrait presque d'être la vedette d'une émission de télé hebdommadaire. Que diriez-vous du titre "Urgence Zénith 92000"? Cette émission pourrait être animée par notre propre vedette légendaire, Stomping Tom Connors. Pour éviter que nos forestiers ne se sentent délaissés, nous pourrions également demander à David Suzuki de coanimer l'émission.

Nos derniers efforts cinématographiques comprennent la réalisation d'un film de suspense sur les forêts intitulé "Trees for Canada" dans lequel un groupe de

fish. Park staff, not wanting to be outdone, invited Cable 12 to record them doing such exotic things as smelling flowers and teaching park visitors how to have fun "au naturelle."

The icing on the video came when MCTV's "Down To Earth" series produced an episode on innovative timber management techniques featuring horse logging. My, life is a series of never ending circles.

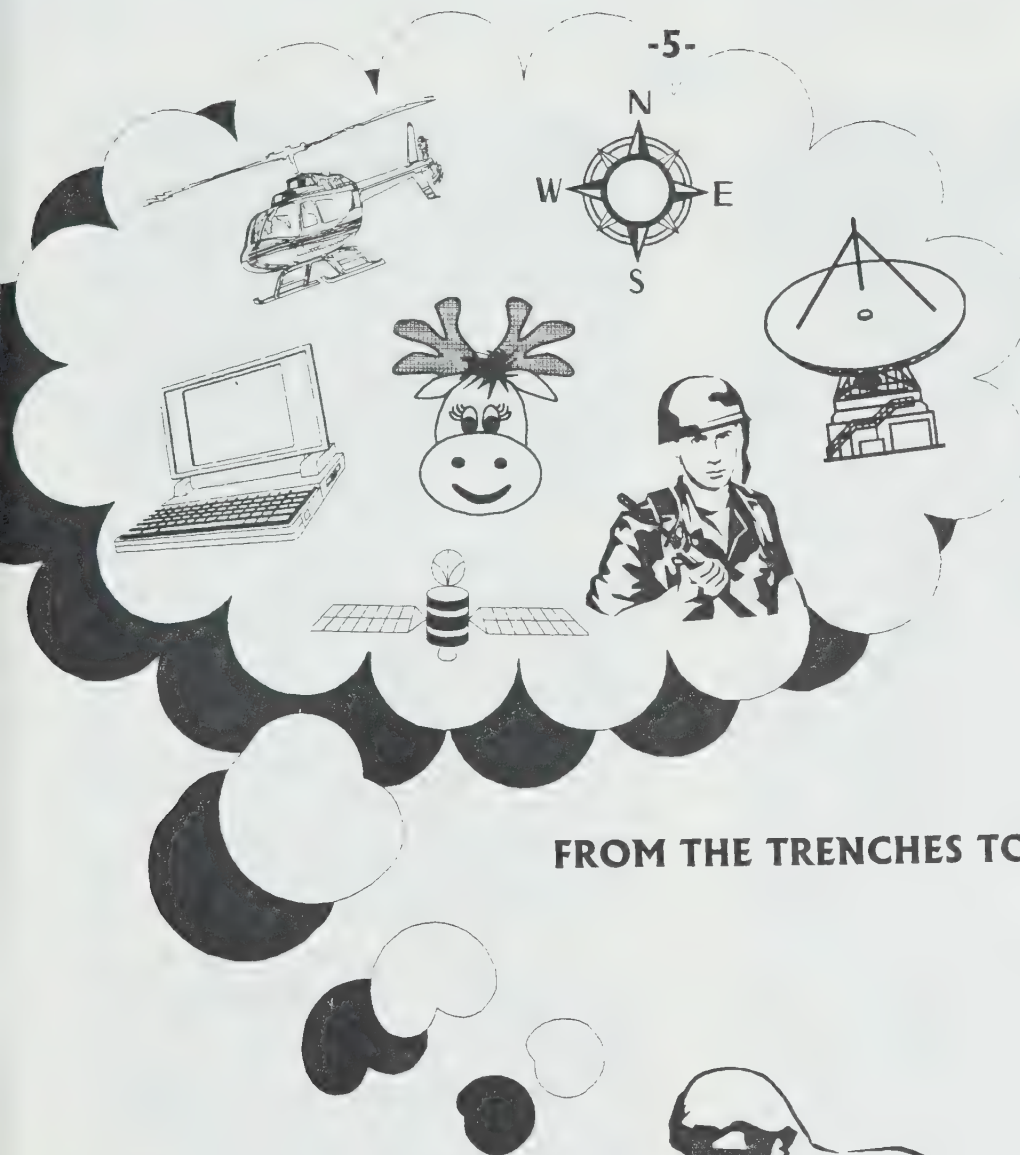
With all this camera, action, stuff happening, MNR staff should consider attending makeup and drama classes. Who knows, we may even be able to convince our masters that we are enjoying our special holidays.



scouts déchainés essaient de reboiser le nord de l'Ontario. Les critiques disent que l'intérêt envers ce film croît avec le nombre de fois qu'il est visionné. La séance de remue-méninges vidéo suivante donna naissance au désormais célèbre montage "The Timmins Video". Cette production de Video North met en vedette des forestiers gardant des moutons, des agents de protection de la nature qui maintiennent l'ordre et des techniciens qui pêchent tous les poissons. Les membres du personnel du parc, refusant d'être délaissés, ont invité l'équipe de Câble 12 à venir les consigner sur pellicule cinématographique alors qu'il s'adonnaient à des activités exotiques comme sentir le parfum des fleurs et initier les visiteurs du parc aux plaisirs de la nature.

Cette expérience cinématographique a atteint son apogée lorsque l'équipe de l'émission "Down to Earth" de la station MCTV produisit un épisode sur les techniques innovatrices de gestion du bois, mettant en vedette les billots tirés par les chevaux. Ciel, que la vie est composée de cercles interminables...

Toutes ces activités cinématographiques fébriles devraient peut-être inciter le personnel du MRN à considérer assister à des cours d'arts dramatiques et de maquillage! Qui sait, peut-être réussirons-nous à convaincre nos maîtres que nous apprécions grandement nos jours de repos forcé!



FROM THE TRENCHES TO THE FOREST

DES TRANCHÉES À LA FORÊT



Half a world away from his home the soldier sits in his foxhole. The cold of the starless night of the Saudi Arabian Desert slowly numbs his fingers and toes. With courage and misgivings he faces the terrors conjured up by his over active mind and the ever present danger of the approaching battle.

Suddenly, the sound of approaching machinery echoes over the endless sands. A vehicle is slowly approaching his concealed position. Our warrior's heart is pounding like a jackhammer threatening to give away his position. A cold and invisible hand slowly squeezes his intestines. Is the dreaded confrontation with the enemy at hand?

The warrior carefully chambers a round in his assault rifle and waits for the inevitable. The approaching vehicle suddenly veers to the right and comes to a stop within a few meters of his position. The soldier's senses are in overdrive. He can smell his fear along with the enticing aroma of hot roast beef. What, roast Beef? A voice calls out his name and announces that supper is served.

This minor miracle in navigation was possible with the help of the "Global Positioning System" or GPS. The system consists of a hand held receiver that can triangulate satellite signals thus enabling the user to locate, within a few meters, any position on this planet. It almost makes the compass obsolete.

This system, besides helping

À l'autre bout du monde, le soldat se terre dans sa tranchée. Le froid de la nuit noire du désert de l'Arabie saoudite lui engourdit lentement les doigts et les orteils. Avec un courage teinté de doutes, il doit faire face aux scénarios d'épouvante élaborés par son imagination surexcitée et par le danger toujours présent de la bataille imminente.

Tout à coup, le bruit d'un engin se fait entendre par-delà le désert. Un véhicule approche lentement de sa cachette. Le coeur de notre soldat bat la chamade, menaçant de divulguer sa position. Une main glaciale et invisible lui triture lentement les intestins. Le moment tant redouté de la confrontation est-il venu?

Notre soldat remplit soigneusement la chambre de son fusil et attend que l'inévitable se produise. Le véhicule bifurque soudainement vers la droite et s'arrête à quelques mètres de lui. Les sens de notre héros sont en effervescence. Il peut pratiquement sentir sa peur en même temps que l'irrésistible arôme d'un rôti de boeuf fumant. Quoi, d'un rôti de boeuf? Il entend tout à coup une voix l'appeler et l'inviter à venir prendre son repas.

Ce petit miracle de navigation a pu être réalisé grâce au "système de positionnement universel" ou SPU. Ce système comprend un récepteur portatif pouvant effectuer des triangulations de signaux émis par satellite, permettant ainsi à son utilisateur de

to bring hot meals to troops in the middle of the desert, was invaluable in guiding aircraft to targets, troops to enemy fortifications and supplies and men to units on the move. GPS permitted the allied coalition to achieve an integration of troops, armour, artillery and air power on a scale undreamed of a decade earlier.

It has been accepted as axiomatic that throughout history, military discoveries and applications always find their way to civilian uses. GPS is no exception. During the Gulf War most of us were glued to the television awaiting new information on the conflict. Others, like Milan Vukelich, a biologist from Timmins, Andy Todd, now with the Technology Transfer Unit (TDU) in North Bay and Larry Hill from the Ontario Centre For Remote Sensing, were seeing beyond the battle. They could already picture MNR personnel's use of maps, computers and aircraft being complemented by GPS technology for such projects as the annual moose survey program.

We conduct moose surveys on wildlife management units every three years. The main purpose of these surveys is to obtain a moose population estimate. This estimate is then used to calculate the number of moose tags that will be available during the upcoming moose hunt. I knew this would make you moose hunters stand up and take notice!

In Ontario, two types of survey methods are conducted,

découvrir, à quelques mètres près, n'importe quelle position sur la planète. Le perfectionnement de cet appareil relègue pratiquement le compas aux oubliettes.

En plus de permettre d'apporter des repas chauds aux troupes cantonnées en plein milieu du désert, ce système s'est révélé inestimable pour guider les avions vers leurs cibles, les troupes vers les fortifications ennemies ainsi que les approvisionnements et les renforts vers les unités mobiles. Le SPU a permis aux forces alliées d'amalgamer leurs troupes, leurs armes blindées, leur artillerie et leurs forces aériennes à un degré irréalisable moins d'une décennie plus tôt.

L'histoire a révélé que les découvertes et les applications militaires finissent toujours par être utilisées par les civils. Le SPU ne déroge pas à cet axiome. Pendant la guerre du golfe, la plupart d'entre nous étions rivés à notre téléviseur afin de ne rien manquer du déroulement du conflit. D'autres, comme Milan Vukelich, un biologiste de Timmins, Andy Todd, maintenant au service de l'Unité de transfert technologique (UTT) à North Bay, ainsi que Larry Hill du Centre ontarien de télédétection (COT), ont su voir au-delà de ces conflits. Ils anticipaient déjà de quelles façons la technologie du SPU pourrait rehausser l'utilisation des cartes, des ordinateurs et des avions par le personnel du MRN, particulièrement dans le cadre de projets comme le programme

the plot and the transect survey. The plot survey divides the entire unit into 25km square blocks. A certain number of these blocks are then chosen for the actual survey. This is done with the help of the science of statistical sampling. The transect survey is very similar. However, the blocks are replaced with 1km wide lines located 10km apart drawn across the entire wildlife unit. Once drawn, these plots or transect lines are then transferred to detailed topographic maps and flown using fixed winged aircraft or helicopters. All moose seen inside the plot or crossing the transect are then recorded as to location, sex and numbers.

As with any visually based survey, errors are common when dealing with the human factor. Observers have problems in deciding if a moose is outside of or within the plot. When a moose is located near the outer boundaries of a plot the navigators experience some difficulties in reconciling the aircraft's position in relation to the plots. These inherent difficulties can affect the accuracy of population estimates. Exactness is optimized by using experienced observers and navigators. However, these key people become a rare commodity in times of restraint and shrinking budgets.

These were some of the challenges facing our dynamic trio when they decided to modernize the surveys. What finally developed was a computer program that stored

annual de recensement des orignaux.

Nous recensons les populations d'orignaux dans les unités de gestion faunique à tous les trois ans. Ces recensements visent essentiellement à nous permettre d'obtenir une approximation du nombre d'orignaux qui vivent dans ces unités. Ces données servent ensuite à calculer le nombre de vignettes qui seront émises pour la prochaine saison de chasse à l'orignal. Je savais bien que cette information saurait retenir l'attention des amateurs de chasse à l'orignal!

En Ontario, deux méthodes sont utilisées pour effectuer un recensement : par échantillonnage et par section. La méthode par échantillonnage divise une unité en blocs carrés de 25 km. Un certain nombre de ces blocs est ensuite choisi au hasard, à l'aide de la science de l'échantillonnage statistique dans le but d'y effectuer un recensement. Le recensement par section est très similaire, sauf que les blocs sont remplacés par des lignes de 1 km de large, tracées dans toute l'unité faunique, à 10 km de distance l'une de l'autre. Une fois tirées, ces lignes sectionnelles ou ces blocs sont ensuite transférés sur des cartes topographiques détaillées, puis survolées par hélicoptère ou par avion. Tous les orignaux qui sont repérés à l'intérieur de ces blocs ou qui traversent la ligne sectionnelle sont ensuite consignés (emplacement, sexe et nombre).

all plots or transects. These could be called up on demand and superimposed on topographic relief maps of the area. A laptop computer was then hooked up to the GPS unit and a simple tap of the space bar would reveal the actual aircraft position on the plot. This eliminated errors and time in navigation. When moose were sighted the operator would hit the M key and a menu would appear on the screen. The navigator would then fill in the blanks on the sighting. This included such information as number of bulls, cows, calves etc. Also the program would record the position of the moose sighting by longitude and latitude. Once complete, another tap of the space bar would bring the program back to the navigation mode.

The benefits of this system are obvious. Savings resulted in aircraft costs since less time was spent in trying to determine the location of the aircraft and moose in relation to the plot. Estimates show that five to ten minutes are saved per plot. This translates in a reduction of thousands of dollars in aircraft costs per wildlife unit. Also, since the system allows for the use of less experienced navigators, further savings are realized in overtime payments. It is a win win situation for MNR.

The real pay off in using this system happens when we load the information in the Geographic Information System (GIS) data base. This gives resource managers accurate and up to date information on moose populations, linked to

Il est toutefois à noter que des erreurs humaines se glissent fréquemment dans un recensement axé sur des données visuelles. Ainsi, les observateurs peuvent éprouver de la difficulté à décider si un orignal se trouve à l'intérieur ou à l'extérieur du bloc à l'étude. Lorsqu'un orignal est repéré près des lignes de démarcation d'un bloc, les pilotes peuvent connaître quelques difficultés à concilier la position de leur appareil par rapport aux blocs survolés. Ces difficultés inhérentes peuvent altérer la précision des résultats du recensement. Le degré d'exactitude est directement proportionnel à l'expérience des observateurs et des pilotes qui effectuent le recensement. Or, en ces temps de restrictions et de coupures budgétaires, le nombre de ces intervenants clés s'est raréfié.

Les situations précitées illustrent certains des défis que les membres de notre trio dynamique devraient relever lorsqu'ils ont décidé de moderniser les recensements. Un logiciel contenant toutes les données rattachées aux blocs et aux lignes sectorielles a finalement été conçu. Ces données pouvaient être récupérées sur demande et superposées à des cartes topographiques à relief de la région en question. Un ordinateur portatif a ensuite été relié à un SPU, de sorte que le simple toucher de la barre d'espacement révèle la position précise de l'appareil par rapport au bloc à l'étude, éliminant ainsi les erreurs et le temps perdu pour la navigation. Ainsi, lorsqu'un



geographic location. This allows for the easy creation of maps and decision making on such things as the timing and location of timber harvesting operations. Biologists can also establish the requirements for forest types by wintering moose herds.

The future of GPS will not be used to bring hot roast beef suppers to MNR field workers but it does promise and eye opening menu of possibilities.

Congratulations to Milan and Andy in receiving a pictorial book of Canada for submitting this time and money saving suggestion to MNR Ideas.

original était repéré, le recenseur appuyait sur la touche M et un menu apparaissait à l'écran. Il pouvait alors consigner les renseignements pertinents dans les espaces vides prévus à cet effet. Ces renseignements portaient notamment sur le nombre d'originaux mâles ou femelles, ou encore sur les veaux, etc. L'orsqu'un original était repéré, le logiciel enregistrtrait également les coordonnées s'y rapportant, en terme de longitude et de latitude. Après la consignation de ces données, l'observateur n'avait qu'à appuyer à nouveau sur la barre d'espace pour que le logiciel revienne au point de départ.

Les avantages de ce système sont évidents. Des économies ont ainsi pu être réalisées en ce qui a trait aux frais d'exploitation de l'appareil car la détermination de l'emplacement exact de l'appareil et de l'original par rapport au bloc à l'étude prend moins de temps (une évaluation démontre une économie de cinq à dix minutes par bloc). Cela se traduit par une économie de milliers de dollars en frais d'exploitation d'un appareil, par unité faunique. Il est également à souligner que ce système permet d'utiliser des navigateurs moins expérimentés, ce qui accroît les économies réalisées en primes de surtemps. Il s'agit d'une situation "gagnant-gagnant" pour le MRN!

Ce qui est particulièrement intéressant au sujet de ce système, c'est que les données ainsi recueillies peuvent être



directement consignées dans la banque de données du système de géomatique. Cela permet aux gestionnaires des ressources de disposer de renseignements précis et récents sur les populations d'orignaux par emplacement géographique. Une telle procédure facilite la conception de cartes et le processus décisionnel reliés à des sujets comme la détermination de l'emplacement et du calendrier d'activités de coupe du bois. Les biologistes peuvent également établir les exigences des catégories de forêts en fonction du déplacement des troupeaux d'orignaux pendant l'hiver.

Même si à l'avenir, le SPU ne sera pas utilisé pour servir du rôti de boeuf fumant comme repas au personnel travaillant à l'extérieur du bureau régional, il offre néanmoins une gamme intéressante d'applications fort prometteuses.

Toutes nos félicitations à Milan et Andy qui ont reçu un album illustré du Canada pour avoir soumis cette suggestion qui nous permettra de réaliser des économies tant en argent qu'en temps.

LAKE GETS STONED!

LeValley Lake, situated north of Timmins, was literally stoned for approximately two days. More than 30 members of the Timmins Fur Council and staff from the Timmins MNR joined forces to help improve fish habitat in the lake.

Several tons of rock (stone) was moved into the lake to build an artificial spawning shoal for the walleye population. The shoal was created in just under a day and a half with the help of healthy northern brawn and a good outpouring of sweat. The shoal will attract fish who will lay their eggs in the small crevices between the rocks which provide protection from various predators. To speed up the process, MNR has stocked the lake with 200 walleye and closed it to fishing until 1998. This will allow the fish population to take hold.

The fur council has worked in partnership with the Ministry on six other projects since 1986. These have included such things as planting wild rice for waterfowl to planting clover along trails and old roads as food for certain birds and small animals.

What drives this group of people is a love and respect for their environment and a strong desire to keep it intact and productive for their children and grandchildren to enjoy. To these hardy trailblazers we offer our ever lasting gratitude.

UN LAC DE ROCHES!

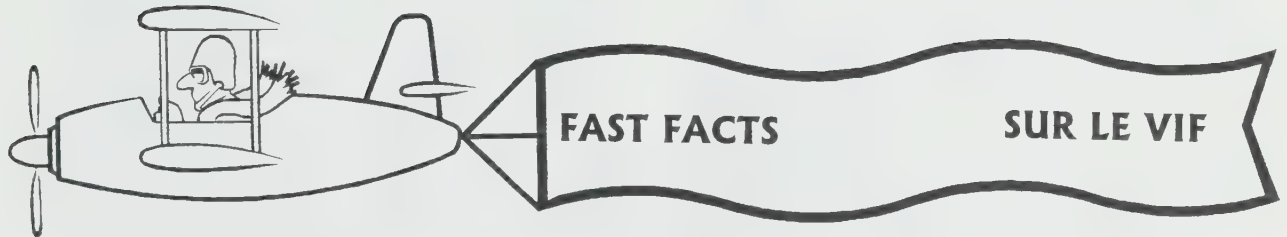
Le lac LeValley, situé au nord de Timmins, est pratiquement devenu un lac de roches pendant environ deux jours, lorsque plus de 30 membres du Timmins Fur Council ainsi que des membres du personnel du bureau de Timmins du ministère des Richesses naturelles ont uni leurs efforts afin d'améliorer l'habitat halieutique du lac.

Plusieurs tonnes de roches furent donc déversées dans le lac afin d'aménager un haut-fond de frai artificiel pour la population de dorés. L'ardeur au travail et les bras forts typiques de nos gens du Nord ont permis l'aménagement de ce haut-fond en moins d'une journée et demie. Les femelles pourront désormais pondre leurs oeufs en toute quiétude, car elles pourront les dissimuler dans les fissures de ces roches, protégeant ainsi leur progéniture contre divers prédateurs. De plus, afin d'accélérer le processus de repeuplement, le personnel du MRN a déversé 200 petits dorés dans le lac et y a interdit toute activité de pêche jusqu'en 1998, permettant ainsi aux ressources halieutiques du lac de se refaire.

Le Fur Council a collaboré avec le ministère dans le cadre de six autres projets depuis 1986. Ces projets portent sur des sujets divers allant de la plantation de riz sauvage pour les oiseaux aquatiques jusqu'à la plantation de trèfle le long de sentiers de d'anciens chemins afin de fournir de la

nourriture pour certains
oiseaux et petits animaux.

Ces gens cultivent le même
amour et nourrissent le même
respect pour leur
environnement, en plus de
chercher ardemment à le garder
aussi intact et productif que
possible pour leurs enfants et
leurs petits-enfants. Nous
aimerions exprimer notre
éternelle gratitude à ces
pionniers.



● The Timmins Sportsman Show is the oldest such event in the province. This partnership between MNR and The Lions Club boast an average attendance of 15,000 people in a two day period.

● This year the Ecolojust program has provided a 2.5 day outdoor experience to about 500 local school children. This partnership program provides student with a variety of outdoor education programming carried out in a forest setting.

● The Timmins District has outdone all expectations in the field of public information/education. So far a total of 70 presentations have been given representing a total of 5000 contacts.

● Le Timmins Sportsman Show (foire du sportif tenue à Timmins) fut la première activité du genre organisée dans la province. Approcimativement 15 000 personnes assistent à cet événement de deux jours organisé conjointement par le MRN et le Club Lions.

● Cette année, le programme Ecolojust a permis à environ 500 écoliers de la région de participer à 2,5 jours d'activités de plein-air. Ce programme, instauré en partenariat, permet aux écoliers de bénéficier d'un programme varié d'activités éducatives en plein-air organisées en forêt.

● Le district de Timmins a dépassé toutes les attentes

● Seven million trees have been planted in the district this year.

● MNR staffers made history by capturing an emu in the South Porcupine area this spring.

dans le domaine de l'information et de l'éducation du public. En effet, un total de 70 exposés ont été donnés, ce qui représente un total de 5 000 personnes rencontrées.

● Sept millions d'arbres ont été plantés cette année dans le district.

● Les membres du personnel du MRN sont maintenant passés à l'histoire en capturant un émeu ce printemps, dans la région de South Porcupine.



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Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

ECOLOJUST '94 GETS TOP MARKS

Again this year, students and teachers have given top marks to the Ecolojust '94 program. This environmental awareness, outdoor education effort has been designed especially for grade five level students. The Ontario Ranger camp at Kettles Lakes Provincial Park is the focal point for all activities. This camp provides top notch dining, recreational and sleeping facilities for the students' three day stay.

The program this year ran from May 24 to June 23. It provided a variety of outdoor education opportunities to about 350 students from schools in the Timmins area. Most of the activities are based on the MNR Project Wild, Focus on Forests and Fish Ways manuals. Broad program objectives are decided by the Ministry of Education document, "Science is Happening Here". Special presentations by MNR Fire Control Crews, the City of Timmins and The Timmins Fur Council opened the students eyes to the complexities involved in resource

protection and management. Also, at the end of their stay, students were treated to an interesting tour of the Falconbridge Mines Limited concentrator and smelting facilities near Timmins.



Ecolojust '94 is made possible through a partnership between the Timmins Board of Education and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Timmins District. Program support was provided by four EYC (Environmental Youth Corps) students and local educators from the Board.

Such programs are needed and welcomed in our resource hungry and wasteful society. The new generation must be conversant in the complexities involved in the maintenance of an economy based on sustainable development. Finally, all project participants try to develop an environmental ethic in the young people. The theory is that when nature is respected it is usually then protected.

Ce rapport est disponible en français. (705) 267-7951 - Ben Legouffe



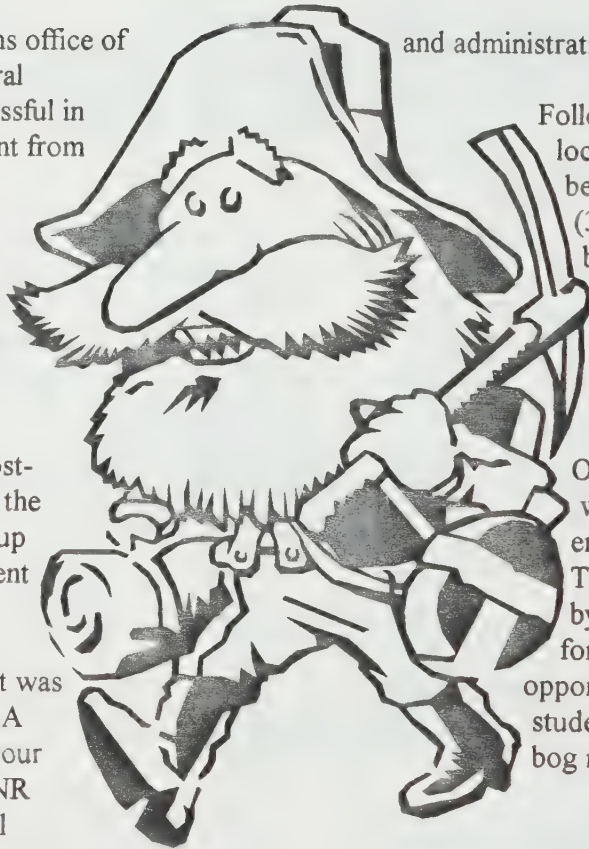
HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!!

Recently, the Timmins office of the Ministry of Natural Resources was successful in obtaining a small grant from the Northern Ontario Development Agreement (NODA). The funding was to improve a trail system in the Hersey Lake Conservation Area. The most advantageous and cost-effective approach to the project was to strike up a partnership agreement with the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority (MRCA). It was agreed that the MRCA would provide the labour and support while MNR would handle financial

and administration concerns.

Following several site visits with local teachers, construction began on roughly 100 meters (328 feet) of shoreline boardwalk. Also, the existing 1.5 kilometre (1 mile) trail was resurfaced using wood chips obtained from a local sawmill.

Once completed, the project will provide a safe environment for trail users. The added access provided by the boardwalk will allow for unique wildlife viewing opportunities and a platform for students to carry out a variety of bog related studies.



THE PELICAN PROJECT

All residents of our fair City know that Timmins is a great place to live! The developed portion of the community is surrounded by what is called by many as the "great white north". In fact, the white part applies to the winter season while green is the colour of choice for the remainder of the year.

Such a unique geographical location has definite advantages, especially if you happen to be an outdoor enthusiast. Timmins is a place where strange and unusual events happen. For instance, we have had a lost wolf pack tour our subdivisions, moose visit our local hotels, beavers stroll down our main drag and bears visit several homes to check out the garbage menu. On the strange side, MNR staffers, after a long event filled chase, captured an Emu. We have also separated moose from an angry herd of buffalo. It was not surprising when we received calls concerning pelican sightings on local lakes.

In order to confirm the information, we sent out our top birder, naturalist and all around nice guy, Mark Joron. Equipped with his trusty Kayak, Mark obtained photographs of a White pelican but could not locate the prized Brown pelican. This species of pelican, being a salt water inhabitant, is a real rarity to the area. It usually is found along the rocks and cliffs of warm coastal waters. It would be safe to say that actually seeing this bird in Timmins could be put in the once in a lifetime category.

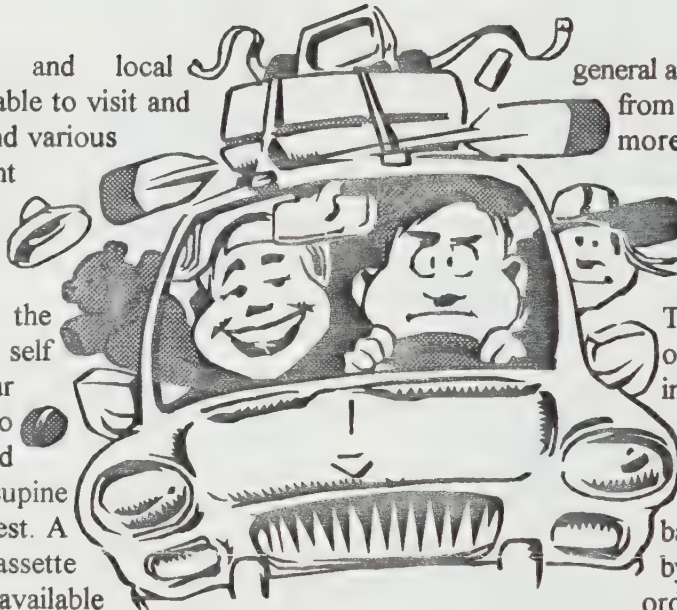
Most people are not aware that the pelican is among the largest of all birds, but the Brown is the smallest bird of the family. It measures about .9 meters (3 feet) in length weighs about 3.2 kg (7 lbs) and has a wingspan of 1.8 meters (6 feet). Surprisingly, it has a life span of about 25 years. Pelicans also gather in flocks of up to 50 birds and will fly in a v-formation similar to Canada geese. They feed almost entirely on fish, which they catch by diving from a height of up to 20 meters (65 feet). The sound of a diving pelican hitting the water can be heard 8 kilometres (half a mile) away. The bird is protected from injury by an ingenious system of air pockets beneath the skin of the pelican's chest. Plunging into the water, the bird scoops up a beakful (about 13 litres - 3 gallons) of water and fish. To heavy to fly, it then has to sit on the waters' surface and allow the water to drain from its bulging pouch. It then swallows the fish. Contrary to popular belief, they do not carry fish in their pouch since they would be unbalanced and could not fly. Pelicans have also been known to work in groups to catch fish. They force fish into a dense school by beating their wings on the water, then using their huge beaks, they scoop up the fish in their pouches.

It certainly would be interesting to have more of these unique birds visit the Timmins area. Keep on the lookout for these "brief" visits.

THE IDEAL FAMILY TOUR

Tourist, schools and local residents are now able to visit and experience first hand various forest management activities in the Timmins area. This is being made possible with the introduction of a self guided vehicle tour package relating to specific sites located in the Porcupine Demonstration Forest. A booklet and audio cassette are being made available through the Porcupine Chamber of Commerce Tourism Office in Schumacher and at Kettle Lakes Provincial Park.

The tour material will help users interpret various well marked and easy to locate sites along the Gibson Lake and Ice Chest Lake forest access roads. What makes this self guided tour so unique is that scheduling is left up to the individual. It can be done in a single day or stretched over several days and the sites, for the most part, are accessible any time of the year. Visitors can also get a



general appreciation for the tour from their vehicles or obtain more site specific knowledge by taking the recommended short strolls.

This tour is a unique opportunity for you to increase your knowledge of the forest. You will also learn to appreciate the delicate balancing act carried out by forest professionals in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem and provide at the same time a viable forest industry.

It should be noted that this tour is due to a partnership between the Ministry of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Canada - Canadian Forestry Service, the Northern Ontario Development Agreement - Northern Forestry Program and the Timmins Economic Development Corporation. So put on your hiking shoes, bring the family and enjoy the tour.

EVOLUTION OF THE RANGERS

Most of us don't recall much about the year 1944. The world was still in the grip of the great conflict known as World War II. Food was being rationed and few among us were fortunate enough to own a car. Movies cost a nickel and radio was the entertainment centre of the home. Life, in those days, could be described as simple compared to today's standards. Our seniors constantly refer to that period as the "good old days".

The date, it seems, is an important milestone for the Ministry of Natural Resources then known as the Department of Lands and Forests! It is written (I imagine in some obscure publication) that in 1944 some farsighted and dedicated people created a program for the young people of Ontario. The plan was to create an environment that would expose this new generation to resource management projects carried out by MNR. The Junior Ranger program came into existence and for eight weeks every summer, Ontario's youth were instructed and participated in good old outdoor work. This involved such things as fire management, forest silviculture, fish and wildlife and parks and recreation projects. Throughout the years, the Ranger program has benefited approximately 65,000 young people and has been pivotal in recruiting young talent to our organization. Many top MNR staffers have their roots in the program. In 1974 the program was made available to young women with camps being designated all-male or all-female. The nineties saw a new name (Ontario Rangers) and new opportunities in the form of second year, Ranger II positions. This year, 1994, the Ontario Ranger Program will offer opportunities for 554 students at 22 camps, while 595 former program participants will move up to the Ranger II level.

Many things have changed in 50 years! However, the Ontario Ranger Program still offers the best summer job anybody could ever have. Have a great celebration! You deserve it!



RESIDENTS ATTACK MARSH KILLER!



It is a silent war, it has no truces and the enemy is relentless. On one side of the conflict stands man and on the other is a plant one to 2 meters (6.5 feet) in height crowned by pink purple flower spikes. At stake in this war is the ecosystem of all marshlands and wetlands in Canada. The bad news about this battle is that the plants are winning!

The enemy has a name! We call it Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum Salicaria*) and it is a worst case example of a plant that is imported to a place where it has no natural controls or predators. In Europe, at least 100 different insects nibble on loosestrife plants. Because of the predation, the plant is controlled in that area of the world.

The first seeds came to Canada 150 years ago, but the predators stayed behind. Over the years, the attractive plants have been spread by

gardeners to each province. At this point biology takes over and does the rest. The purple flowers reach full bloom in early August and the flowers of each plant can produce more than two million seeds. Each of these seeds can travel great distances in water and wind. It is even reaching our northern lakes by hitching a ride on the webbed feet of ducks. The plant crowds out other species and shrinks the habitat for animals and fish. What you are left with is a dense purple landscape devoid of wildlife. Estimates are that the weed has spread through half of the provinces 12,300 square kilometres (4680 square miles) of wetlands.

Control of this invading species is difficult and time consuming. The first method involves the removal of the entire plant. The root mass must be dug out and all pieces must be accounted for. Purple loosestrife will re-root

from the tiniest piece of root, stalk, leaf, flower or seed head. Consequently plant matter is put in a protected site so it can dry completely without danger of being spread by wind, water, human or animal activity. Once totally dried, the plant can be burned, packaged for disposal or composted. The second control method is the use of herbicides on the plant. This has been found effective in dry land control. However, wetland use is not possible due to resulting pollution to the water body. Research is continuing and they may yet solve the problem. Finally, while herbicides are used to "eradicate" weeds, biological agents are helpful in "control". They reduce weed densities so far as their impact on other species is reduced. Biological control seems to be the most efficient and economical long term means of dealing with the problem. Work is progressing with several European insects that have historically kept this plant under control on that continent. Three of these insects were recently approved for release in Canada and

preliminary trials are promising.

So meanwhile we must keep hacking, pulling, burning, wrapping and composting. This is why MNR is grateful to the 75 people that showed up at Pearl Lake in Schumacher on August the 6th to help us attack the plant. This area has the largest infestation in the Timmins area. We should be very concerned about this location, since Pearl Lake is part of the head waters of the Porcupine River. The entire river ecosystem will radically change if the Loosestrife is able to establish itself along this waterway. If you run across any of these plants in your travels in the forest please let us know the locations by calling our invading species hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

Lets hope that these weeds do not acquire a taste for human flesh, an attitude and figure out a method of locomotion.

REMEMBER WHEN?

The media blitz is on! The Ontario Ranger program has been around for 50 years. Displays, news releases, open houses and interviews are the order of the day. A big deal for a program that may not survive our galloping reorganization. Corporate thinking seems to favour a less structured and financially reduced student work program. It is also advocated, by these "futuristic" thinkers, that in today's mobile and changing work environment an MNR career oriented program is no longer needed. This, as you can imagine, has drawn the battle lines between this "new wave" camp and the traditionalists of the organization. So, for the time being, the future of the program is still shrouded in the morning mist.

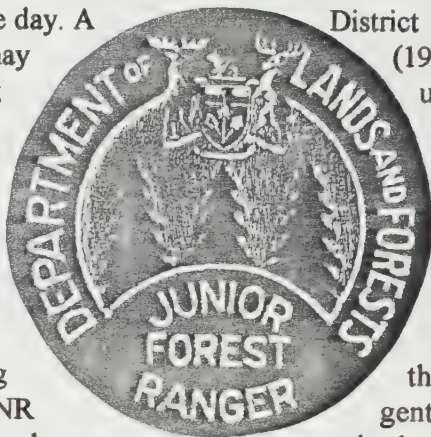
What makes the program so unique and sought after? Several interviews with former Rangers helped this author understand what the big deal was all about. It should also be noted that before 1973 the program participants were known as "Junior Forest Rangers". The name and lifestyle was actually borrowed to produce a popular television series called (you guessed it) The Junior Forest Rangers.

In beating the bushes for interview candidates, I was surprised to find that Timmins District is the home of many alumnae. For instance, we have Bill Martin (1959), Compliance

Specialist, Gary Windsor (1963), Support Services Supervisor, Dwight Eide (1966), Area Technician, Rob Galloway (1967) District Manager and Milan Vukelich (1968), Area Biologist. A special and unexpected surprise was in locating John Shaw (1951,1952) who is now a semi-retired dentist in Timmins.

Passionate, animated, elaborate and affectionate are but a few of the expletives that best described the interviews with these gentlemen. I was introduced to such exotic places as Magpie Lake, Sibley, Remi Lake, Oba, Kiilaia Lake, Mississagi and Shebandowan. Camp life, in some cases, was difficult and primitive by our standards. Some camps consisted of canvass tents with only cold spring water available for showering, shaving and washing. The lack of electricity assured the survival of the ribbed washboard and the manual wringer. All agreed that work projects consisted of what is fondly known as "bull work" which often taxed physical limits. Junior Forest Ranger labour was often used to develop new parks, construct roads and bridges, fight forest fires, clear budworm infested Balsam stands or cut, peel and pile Cedar logs.

The wage in the 1950s' was set at \$3.50 per day and was raised to a mind boggling \$5.00 during the following decade. A careful young Ranger could return home at the end of the summer with over one hundred dollars in his



pocket. Seventeen was the magic age of entry in the program. However, older applicants were accepted and it was quite common to see university and college students in the program. Also, in some cases, a second summer term was allowed.

You could probably write a book about the experiences and adventures of camp life. One of our former Rangers actually lied about his age (he was fifteen) and forged a letter of recommendation from his teacher in order to be accepted in the program. Another, to become a Ranger, declined a lucrative summer job at Expo 67 that involved sharing accommodations with several young ladies.

(We are considering a psychological evaluation for this one.) Then comes the story about the secret wine making project that left the camp in low "spirits". The great transport truck fire whose soggy cargo kept the camp smoking for the summer. The adventures are endless as is the enthusiasm with which they are told.

All people interviewed acknowledged that the "Junior Forest Ranger" program had a profound impact on their lives and was responsible in a direct or indirect way in choosing their careers. This youth program is the closest thing to a cultural icon MNR will ever have. Let us hope it can survive and prosper.

TIMMINS DISTRICT - SEPTEMBER 1994



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Resources Report • Rapport sur les ressources

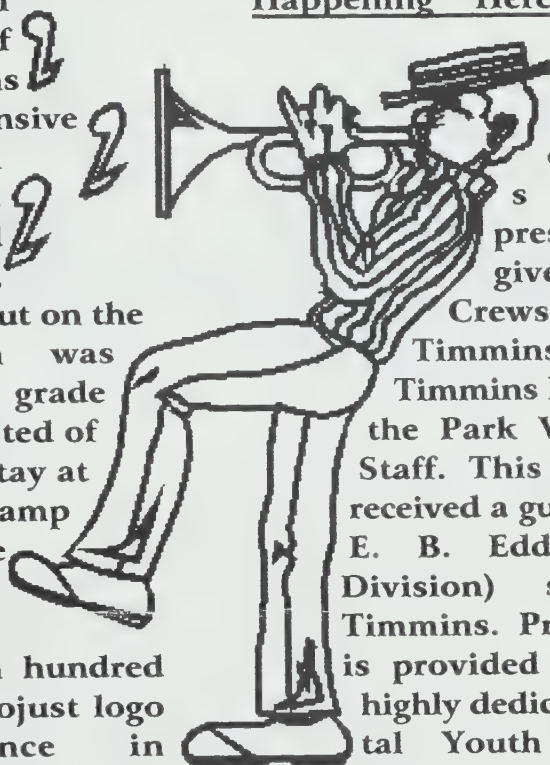
Timmins District
December, 1995

PARTNERS CELEBRATE MILESTONE

Four years ago, local educators and MNR staff agreed that the Timmins area needed a comprehensive environmental awareness program. Many meetings and discussions later, "Ecolojust" made its debut on the scene. The program was designed especially for grade five students and consisted of a three-day overnight stay at the Ontario Ranger camp situated within Kettle Lakes Provincial Park.

Four years and fifteen hundred students later the Ecolojust logo symbolizes excellence in environmental awareness and resource protection/management education. Students taking part in the program are exposed to a variety of activities based on MNR's Project Wild, Focus on Forests and Fish Ways manuals. Also, broad program objectives are guided by the Ministry of Education document Science is

Happening Here. To further reinforce the outdoor educational experience, special presentations are given by MNR Fire Crews, the City of Timmins Forester, the Timmins Fur Council and the Park Visitor Services Staff. This year, students received a guided tour of the E. B. Eddy (McChesney Division) saw mill in Timmins. Program delivery is provided by a group of highly dedicated Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) workers and two top notch retired educators. Obviously, the Ecolojust program is showing long term results. A survey of early participants reveals a well developed environmental ethic. Surprisingly, older students still have vivid memories of their experiences at the camp and



admit to its formative impact on their present views on environmental advocacy. Finally, the program has been successful in creating an atmosphere of self motivation and discovery. This is in sharp contrast to the spoon-feeding philosophy of so many other efforts that eventually teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon.

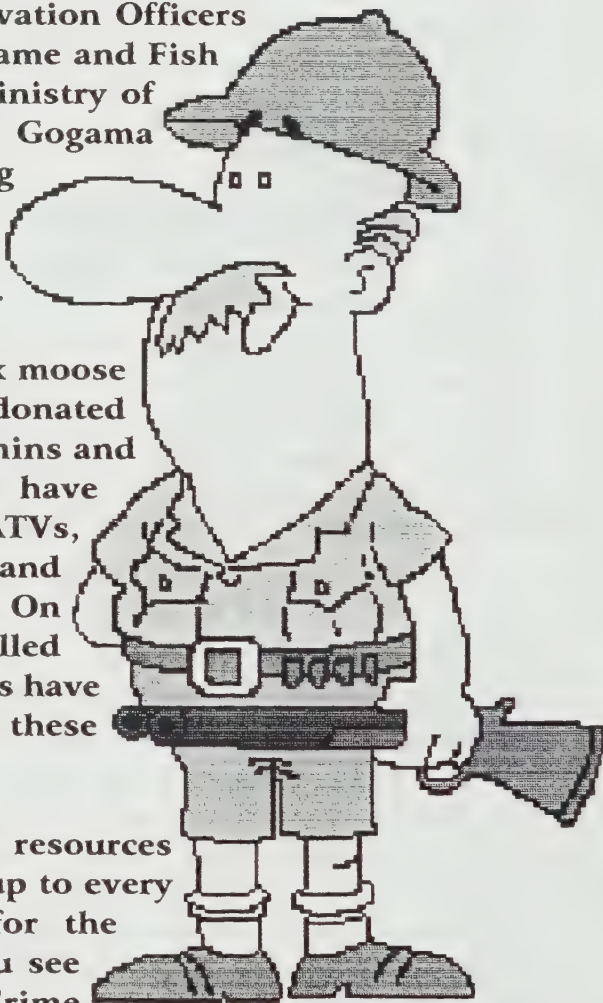


HUNTER'S ROUNDUP

During the 1995 moose hunt, Conservation Officers laid a total of 86 charges under the Game and Fish Act in the Timmins District of the Ministry of Natural Resources (this includes the Gogama area). As this resource report is being written, three hunting investigations are ongoing with the possibility of an additional 20 charges being considered.

From the charges to date, a total of six moose were seized and the meats have been donated to charitable organizations in the Timmins and Sudbury areas. Conservation officers have also seized one pick up truck, four ATVs, one Argo, one compound bow, 17 rifles and various other hunting paraphernalia. On the negative side, eight moose were killed and left to spoil in the bush. No suspects have as yet been identified in relation to these poaching activities.

It is important to remember that all resources belong to the people of Ontario. It is up to every individual to protect our wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations. If you see poaching or other illegal acts call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-461-7867 or the nearest Ministry of Natural Resources office. Wildlife management is everyone's business!



GOLDEN SPRINGS TRAIL GETS FACE LIFT

An ambitious community trail development effort was undertaken this summer by the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority and the Timmins Trail Committee. Funding for this project was provided by the Northern Ontario Development Agreement (NODA) while expertise in trail development was procured through an Environmental Youth Corps (EYC), summer employment project. Other groups that contributed to the effort consisted of the Ontario Rangers and staff from Kettle Lakes Provincial Park.

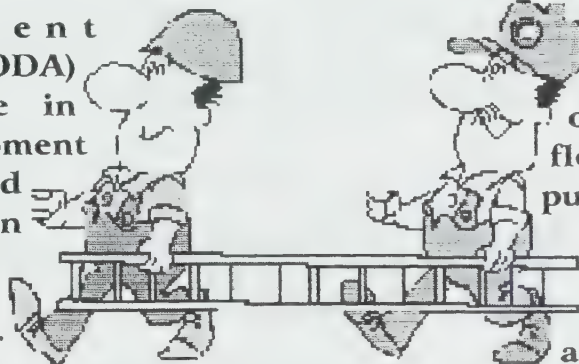
The Golden Springs Trail system, originally designed and built in 1973, was to provide access to the Hersey Lake Conservation Area from downtown Timmins. Throughout the years, the trail system provided educational, interpretive and recreational opportunities to a variety of user groups. A victim of its popularity, the trail system began showing signs of overuse and basic trail design was inadequate to accommodate new activities such as mountain biking and

environmental studies.

Crews began work on the trail upgrade by removing approximately 200 trees. These trees had become safety hazards (widow makers) or impeded sight lines for hikers and bikers.

Following this selective cull, stumps that impeded or constricted the safe flow of traffic were pulverized with the help of a mechanical stumper. To further enhance visibility and safety the entire

fourteen kilometers of trail was cleared of side vegetation with the help of powered brush saws. Bumper posts and signs were strategically located at trail and road junctions. To simplify trail orientation a comprehensive directional signing system is now in place that give such details as distances and directions to various trail facilities and junctions. Finally, gravel was applied to about 4 kilometers of trail thus providing a buffer against erosion and a visual marker to first time trail users. Much more work remains to be done such as additional gravelling, the construction of a lookout and the production of



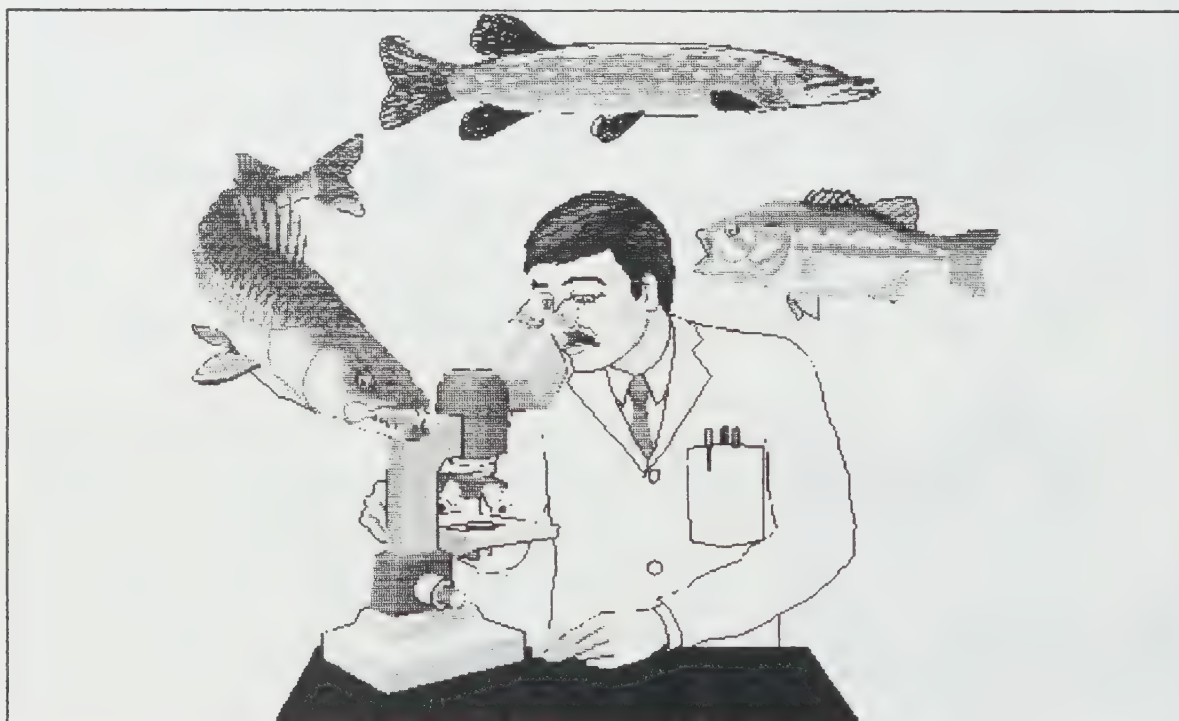
pocket size trail guide. The target is to have the entire project completed by next summer.

Residents appreciated the trail upgrades during this year's Ontario Hiking Day. Participants to the event enjoyed the guided hikes. First time users impressed with the system, expressed an interest in making the trail a regular part of their hiking

activities. For more information on area trails and associated opportunities contact the Mattagami Region Conservation Authority at:

100 Lakeshore Road (Gilles Lake Conservation Area)
Timmins, Ontario P4N 8R5
Phone 705-264-5309 Fax 705-268-6544

THREECORNER LAKE UNDER MICROSCOPE



The name Sir Sandford Fleming College (SSFC) in Lindsay, Ontario is well known to most people involved in the resource management business. Many MNR staffers trace their roots to this prestigious educational institution. What makes the College unique is that they have formed a real working relationship and partnership with the Ministry. For instance,

institution. What makes the College unique is that they have formed a real working relationship and partnership with the Ministry. For instance, SSFC has for the last eight years conducted various studies and made sound management recommendations on nine lakes in the Gogama area. Projects of this magnitude were only dreams for MNR, especially in the light of existing fiscal realities. This is what we call a win win situation. The College is able to offer the students meaningful field projects while MNR benefits by adding valuable data to the district fisheries data base.

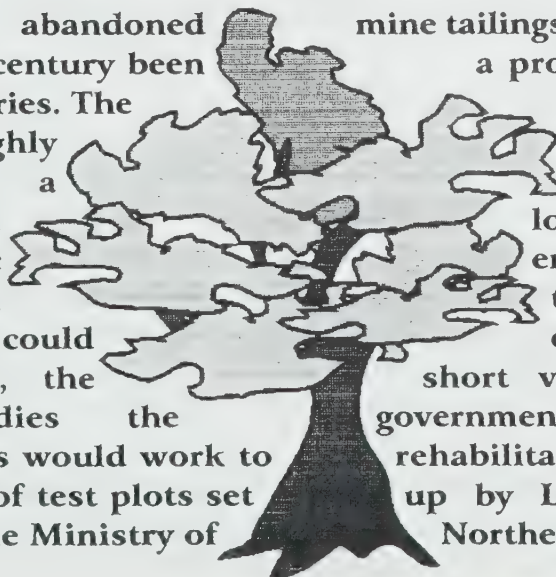
This past summer the College carried out a study on Threecorner Lake south of the community of Gogama. The College supplied the field equipment while MNR took care of lodgings and fuel. The goals of the study consisted of the following:

- a) To assess if muskellunge survived stocking efforts carried out during the 1960s.
- b) To determine walleye reproduction from adult transfers carried out between 1988 and 1992.
- c) To evaluate the feasibility of introducing small mouth bass in the system through habitat mapping.
- d) To tag and release as many fish species as possible in order to obtain a sound cross section of the lake's population composition.

Preliminary results indicate that the muskie did not survive and that the walleye are reproducing. The remaining field data is being analyzed by the College and a final report should be forthcoming. Bravo!

ALDERS ANYONE?

The Kam Kotia abandoned the last quarter century been to various ministries. The producing a highly has had a influence on the a q u a t i c associated with complex and could seller. However, the countless studies the to what remedies would work to include a series of test plots set and funded by the Ministry of



mine tailings near Timmins has for a problem and a challenge site has and still is acidic runoff. This considerable negative local terrestrial and environment. The story this site is long, easily produce a best short version is that after government is still not certain as rehabilitate the site. Efforts up by Laurentian University Northern Development and

Mines. These sample plots contain a variety of plants, shrubs and soils that will provide valuable information on revegetation in an acidic environment.

Recently, a small scale plantation was set up at the southern tip of the tailings to evaluate the survival rate of a variety of alder species. The trees were donated by a local forest research firm called Microtek. The company donated approximately 350 trees for the project. A good part of the test site was also limed by the firm Erocon Limited. Funding to cover materials and equipment costs was provided by Falconbridge Limited - Kidd Creek Division. Finally, the labour force for the planting effort came from the ranks of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Natural Resources. A total of nine people from the two ministries braved the mud and rain to give the potted plants a new home. Since some trees were located in an unlimed area a comparison can be made between the treated and untreated site. Who knows, these hardy little plants could be part of the answer to a problem that has plagued us for a very long time. Go alders!

REDISCOVERING AN OLD RESOURCE



Not many in life are so fortunate as to be able to reach the elusive goal of being able to acquire the proverbial cake and consume it at the same time. However, miracles do happen! Case in point, the Mattagami Area has for many years attempted to inventory the Groundhog River with emphasis on Sturgeon. Due to budget shortfalls and reduced staff these critical inventories could not be undertaken. Nevertheless, as the mutated saying goes "there are numerous methods to filet an inventory".

A problem, like a puzzle, can be solved by simply putting all the pieces together. In this case we had a high school teacher from École Secondaire Theriault looking for an outdoor education project. Above all, he wanted

this project to be hands on and challenge his students. Next in the equation came a local fish and game club, "Les Aventuriers". This group of energetic outdoor enthusiasts is always on the lookout for opportunities to enhance our local natural resources. Finally, came MNR with the expertise needed for such a project but with butterflies in the budget and work force file.

The beauty of a small community like Timmins, is that individuals are involved in many different organizations. This results in the creation of an ad hoc information distribution system that in a local setting can rival the Internet. Word got around and a few handshakes later project CAMUS 95 (old french word for Sturgeon) was launched.

The primary objectives of this partnership were to locate and document critical fish habitat for Sturgeon. Efforts were concentrated at sites along the river identified by Ontario Hydro as potential power generating stations. In these areas data such as water levels, velocities and temperatures were documented. The information collected will become part of a baseline data system. This will be a valuable tool to managers involved in any development work on or along the river system. The next phase of the project involved capturing and tagging approximately forty (40) Sturgeon. Once released these fish will prove invaluable in obtaining information on migration patterns in the system. Further studies focused on discovering potential and actual spawning and rearing sites.

To the surprise of the students, some netted fish weighed up to 35 kilograms (80 lbs.). It was also pointed out to them that the specie is one of the most primitive of the ray-finned fish which dates back millions of years. The fish itself is a slow-moving bottom-dweller. It locates food by their sensitive barbels and by taste buds located outside and around the mouth. Small invertebrates comprise the bulk of their diet. The fish is famed for the blackish roe (eggs), which are salted and called Caviar. Some members of the family have been known to live up to 100 years, reach a length of 8.4 meters (28 feet) and tip the scales at 1,260 kilograms (2,800 lbs.).

Watching the last fish disappear in the fast-moving waters of the Groundhog River, all participants knew that their efforts helped advance the cause of resource management and education. Plans are already in the works for 1996.

Special thanks to the following people:

Teacher, École Secondaire Theriault - Dan Charbonneau

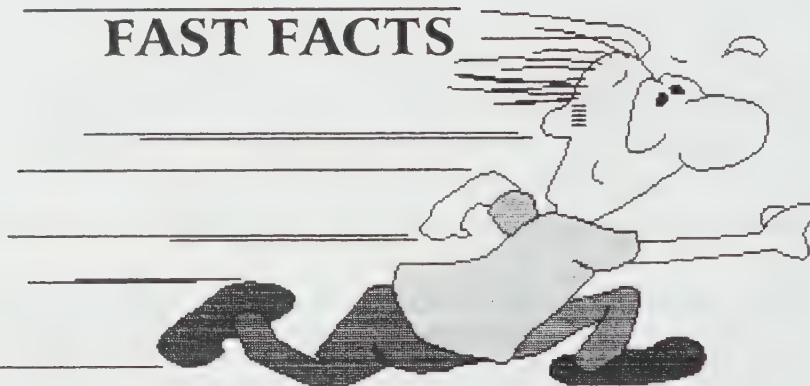
Students - Mel Lajeunesse, Anne Barette, Dan Lacroix, Claude Tanguay, Natalie Avolado, Patrick St-Onge, Dean Touchette, Dion Monette, Sylvie Lacroix, Patrick Yates, Jen Noël, Sabrina Leduc, Lizanne Lafleur, Tania Brunet, Angile Daoust, Kelly St-Pierre, Ward Groulx, Julie Matineau, Steph Thibeault, Bonnie MacGregor, Julie Levesque, Val Allaire, Jana Trembinski, Angela Chartrand, Renelle Poulin, Julie Goudreau, Tracy Legault, Rachel Wickstead, Dan Haffman, Serge Laverdure, Renée Dénomée, Marc Francoeur, Eric Lemay, Julie Corriveau.

Les Aventurier - Laurent Robichaud, Eddy Vien, Armand Lauzon Jackie Vien, Phil Doiron, Vic Lambert,.

Ministry of Natural Resources - Jacques Cavanagh, Mike Michell, Mariane Piché, John Seyler.

Sponsors - Timmins Home Care, Timmins Tire Sales, Falconbridge.

FAST FACTS



- The Thor Lake Cottagers Association recently finished a three year Community Fisheries Improvement Project (CFIP). The project involved stabilizing the water levels on the lake and constructing two spawning beds for walleye. The work on the spawning areas was done in the month of August by twelve dedicated volunteers. These individuals transported the aggregate from the community of Capreol and hand loaded the boats with the material. The gravel was then transported up the lake and emptied at two potential spawning sites. There is no doubt that this work was a fitness challenge to the participants. However, the results could be a renewed walleye fishery on the lake. Hats off to the group and may your Sportscream give your muscles relief.
- Also wanting to flex and work out their muscles, the Mesomikenda Lake Cottagers Association took on a CFIP project for the lake. Ten

hardy individuals rolled up their sleeves and cleaned up a potential spawning site on the west arm of the water body. The group intends to have the final gravel in place by the summer of 1996. Good work people, and the Thor Lake group may have some Sportscream left over for your sore muscles.

- The Dividing Lake Ontario Rangers have advanced the cause of fisheries management in the Gogama area by creating a spawning shoal for lake trout on Azure Lake. The work, like similar projects, is labour intensive and requires the liberal use of muscle power. Gravel for the shoal is usually transported by boat to the site and then spread as per instruction given by MNR staff. The Timmins District has since placed 50,000 lake trout eggs along the shoal in hopes of establishing a self sustaining population. Monitoring and assessments will be carried out to gauge the success of the project.
- Students in the Timmins area spent the summer carrying out gill netting operations in Peterlong, Nighthawk, Kenogamissi and Kenogaming Lakes. These operations will provide important information on how water levels and temperature fluctuations impact on the reproduction capabilities of certain fish species. The data will give biologists reliable estimates of future fish populations and the ability to implement specific strategies aimed at maintaining acceptable angler success rates. Tactics could include changes in limits, closures, a rotational fishery or slot limits. It should also be noted that such research activities are indispensable if we are to achieve the goal of true sustainable development.
- The cause of walleye rehabilitation was advanced by the construction and enhancement of spawning beds on Musgrove Lake and at the rapids between Mattagami and Kenogamissi Lakes. Gravel or what we call rip rap was spread on the bottom in the shallows thus creating a suitable environment for walleye to spawn. This back breaking work was carried out by summer students and Ontario Rangers. We are hoping for a "spawning" success.

Ce rapport est disponible en français. (705) 267-7951



*Merry Christmas and Happy New year
Joyeux Noël et Bonne Heureuse Année*

